

**Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2015
City Hall Basement Conference Room 7:00 pm**

Members Present: Ray Detter, Hugh Sonk

Visitors Present: Christine Crockett, Mary Hathaway, Bethany Grzesiak, Jeff Crockett, Alan Haber, Zachary Abdirahman, Chi-Chi Nwaneni, Kara Wilson, Jordan Tran, Mark Hurley, Abdirashid Gary

Members Absent: Marsha Chamberlin, John Chamberlin, Jim Kern, Sue Kern, Joan French , Kathleen Nolan

First, I want to invite you again to the Dedication and Celebration of the final four exhibits of the Downtown Ann Arbor Historical Street Exhibit Program -- next Tuesday, November 10, 5:00 pm. Speakers Chris Taylor, John Hieftje, Ingrid Sheldon, Susan Pollay and Ken Fischer will be waiting for you in front of the sidewalk planters on North University near South State in front of four displays on the theme of Town and Gown in Ann Arbor-- A book Lovers Town--Music! Music! Music!--Remembering Drake's--and the University Musical Society and the May Festival

Past and potential donors, as well as invited guests (including members and staff of the DDA) will then walk across State Street to a festive celebration with Hors D'oeuvres and drinks, music, possibly dance, in the 100 year old Nickels Arcade. Please join us 6-8 pm.

Last night's CAC meeting was held in City Council Chambers in the midst of the usual election turmoil. Six Huron and Skyline High School students joined us to hear a discussion of three items--the planned apartment development between Soan Plaza and Campus Inn, the Future of the Library Lot and our position on Downtown Parking

CAC members, Old 4th Ward leaders, and Sloan Plaza residents continue to meet with the Core group on design for the new building.—including tours of beautiful Sloan Plaza units that will be impacted by the new structure. We are pleased that developers will be meeting with the City's Design Review Board on November 18, 3:00 pm. in City Hall's Basement Conference Room. They have already committed to appearing twice before the Design Review Board. They have also agreed to meet with our group at 1:30, an hour and a half earlier, to make sure we are all agree on the design of the proposed building.

We then moved on to our discussion of the future of the Library Lot. Alan Haber was there, along with Mary Hathaway and we made clear that we were not supportive of turning all of the Library space into a public park, but we were insistent that the two remaining developers provide a 12,000 sq. foot public plaza. Our packet included a June letter from First Martin Corporation and we joined them in proposing that whatever is built on the site should connect with Liberty Plaza, the Blake Transit center across Fifth , the historic structures on the block, and be a positive benefit to the District Library next door. We don't believe the two projects being considered do that.. **The City will hold an open house this afternoon, Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 4-7 pm in the lobby of City Hall for all of us to meet with prospective developers and see what changes they have made to their proposed building and public open space plans.**

Finally, in our discussion of downtown parking, we once again agreed to strongly support the efforts of the DDA to provide alternatives to parking more cars in the downtown—bicycles, buses (Parking/transportation management plan). However, until we get there, we will continue to encourage developers to bring their own parking solutions. The Core Group proposal for the building between Sloan Plaza and Campus Inn originally proposed one level of underground parking. We got them to make it two. Last night, we decided to encourage them to include three levels of underground parking.