Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 7 pm

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85700551363

By Phone: 877-853-5257

Meeting ID: 857 0055 1363 Passcode: DACAC

Attendance: Jeff Crockett, Peter Honeyman, Carolyn Arcure, Joe Arcure, Ilene Tyler, Norm Tyler, Don Duquette, Chuck Bultman, Christine Crockett, John R Chamberlin, Steve Kaplan, Alan Haber

Roll call:

Carolyn Arcure – downtown Ann Arbor Don Duquette – downtown Ann Arbor John Chamberlain – downtown Ann Arbor Joan French – not present Peter Honeyman – downtown Ann Arbor Hugh Sonk – not present John Splitt – not present

The Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council, which works to advise the DDA and City Council about issues and opportunities that affect downtown livability, met over Zoom on November 30, 2021. The meeting was attended by a dozen CAC members and nearby residents. The CAC is acting in ways to increase membership and visibility, with help from DDA staff.

The attendees discussed recent downtown and DDA developments, such as the December DDA newsletter, bike lane construction on Division, and the selection of a final candidate for DDA Executive Director. The CAC greets these developments with optimism and cheer.

Attendees uniformly expressed concern that CAC meetings might be forced to abandon Zoom and return to in-person meetings. The CAC is not ready for that, and requests that the DDA help to find a way to for the CAC to continue meeting remotely while remaining in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Much of the meeting comprised a discussion of Liberty Plaza and its impact on downtown livability. Recognizing a number of shortcomings in the current status of the park — e.g., there is an obvious and critical need for accessible and available public toilets — there was agreement that there should be a larger community conversation on how to improve the park and the entire block, which is identified in the City Charter as the Center of the City. It's not clear what role DDA can play in catalyzing this conversation, but the focus should be, as Ray Detter always reminds us, on connectivity.