

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council Meeting Minutes—July 2, 2013
301 E. Huron, Council Workroom, 7:00 pm.

Present: Marsha Chamberlin, Herb Kaufer, Ray Detter

Absent: Joan French, Hugh Sonk, Susan Nenadic, Kathleen Nolan, Jim Kern, Sue Kern,
John Chamberlin

Guests: Susan Pollay, Steve Kaplan, Stefan Trendov

At last night's CAC meeting, member Marsha Chamberlin, who is also a member of the Public Arts Committee, filled us in on the status of the public art program in Ann Arbor in relation to the recently passed Public Art Ordinance. She outlined the art projects that are currently being developed. We were pleased to learn that the City has now approved the hiring of a full-time Public Art Administrator. Marsha also outlined the possibilities for a program that will be able to combine public and private funding for future art projects.

We understand that is a resolution before the DDA today to purchase new light poles on Main Street. The CAC supports that resolution. The CAC hopes that the possibility of including elements of public art as a part of this plan will be considered. Combining City and DDA matching funds to include public art makes good sense and those light poles provide us with a great opportunity to do it.

Most of the remainder of our meeting last night was devoted to discussion of issues I raised in my comments to you last month. We don't want 413 E. Huron to happen again and we supported re-examination of Downtown D1 zoning and the reviewing the Design Guidelines and Process in a very open process to make sure that was possible. In the Near-Downtown Neighborhood, we were also committed to making sure that City Place on South Fifth won't happen again. And we supported the recommendations of the R4C/R2A Zoning Advisory group that met for two years and recommended limiting the combination of lots in order to make sure that would not happen again. All of this should be a part of an open process that allows all citizens the opportunity to provide input.

We were very pleased that in the case of R4C the City Council on Monday night re-established a Citizens Advisory Committee on changes to the R4C zoning in the near downtown neighborhoods of the city. This committee will make recommendations to R4C zoning that City Council will be weighing to decide if ordinances should be drafted to reflect those changes—including combination of lots.

In the case of D1 Zoning Review, with the approval of City Council a Planning Commission Executive Committee met yesterday to begin interviews to hire a consultant to guide the D1 Review process. There will be two large public meetings, as well as smaller meetings to consider possible D1 zoning changes—a public meeting in August as well as on-line surveys in order that they can report to Council by the end of September.

In the case of Downtown Design Guidelines and Process, a Design Review Task Force has been established and the first of four scheduled meetings is for Wednesday, July 24, 4:30-6:00 p.m., in the South Conference Room of City Hall. We expect, but are not yet sure that these meetings will also allow for public input. And we will do our best to make sure that the Guidelines and Guidelines Board recommendations are given more teeth.

Finally, all are urged to attend two important Public Participation meetings at the District Library, Wed., July 10, 6:00-8:30 on properties at 121 & 123 E. Liberty and 210 S. 4th Ave.—both developments in a D1 area and historic district that are proposed for less than 5 stories. Not all D1 properties need to be exploited to the maximum possible density.