

Center of the City Taskforce

02/05/2020

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Libby Hunter: addresses development vs park divide.. sees this divide deepening which the media contributes to this. Would like to stress that there are many people who fall in the middle of the two sides. The more downtown units we add, the greater the need for open space will be.

Question for Heather: what did you mean by suggesting that density and housing were the major priorities of task force?

Beth Collins: recommendations from Nov. 2006—ultimately focused around outdoor activity space as opposed to indoor venues.

Geoffrey Henny: as we come towards end of process.. think about issues of governance and funding. Governance: physical aspect and human relations part. How do we address the latter part and not just the physical aspect and create a third entity between private and public. Could be helpful to initiate a council of people who have been committed to this project for some time to be turned over by democratic process within a short period of time.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of Notes

Review Ground Rules and Purpose

Information Sharing

Alan: has forwarded information from Geoff on the commons. Earth week scheduling

Discuss draft vision, goals, objectives, and action

Meghan: what we need to do is to think about what we are recommending: through the structure of vision, goals, objectives, and actions.

Norman: Norm's report draft includes everything in other draft plus other things that were not included.

Alan: issue thought needs more attention is the changing of the name of library lot.

Carolyn: process question—what is process for settling disagreements?

Heather: can include in report where the group had consensus and where the group did not

Dean: would like to discuss governance

Carolyn: question of whether or not parks would administer the space—included in draft to give something to respond to.

Ann: spaces are connected and if PAC doesn't want jurisdiction over library lot, then we might recommend that they give up liberty plaza

Norm: feels that the Commons council is very necessary for administration of programming. Feels the need for a public/private partnership that is charge with development

Alan: not just an advisory body, but one that has some sovereignty but must coordinate with a conservancy

Dean: triad of governance between commons council, city administrator, and non-profit conservancy

Meghan: suggests putting together RACI chart to figure out which entities are responsible or accountable.

Norman: resolution on who is responsible for next steps

Alan: lingering topic—civic center building

Hannah: question of who the proposal to consider a building falls on

Miles: add in- direct the commons council to consider revenue building options for programming

Discussion of liberty plaza

Report Structure (added)

Use Norman et al's draft report and edit on google doc

Next Steps and timeline (added)

Edit draft on google docs

Dean and Alan will meet and discuss language for commons council

February 19 hard deadline

Next Meeting agenda (added)

Finalize report

Consider drafting resolution for council with next steps

Public Comment

Kathy Boris: spends lot of time at library, doesn't want to see large building on library lot. Would like a lovely fountain, plants, and seating.

Geoff Henny: wonderful if the document could convey a bold vision of the commons and our values. Powerful argument that commons is something that could make Ann Arbor a leader.

Jack Eaton: look at the resolution to make sure that you are giving us what we asked for. Look at 6th resolved clause especially.