1. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Newcombe Clark, Russ Collins, Robert Guenzel, Leah Gunn, John Hieftje, Joan Lowenstein, Keith Orr, Sandi Smith, John Splitt

Absent: Roger Hewitt, John Mouat, Nader Nassif

Staff: Susan Pollay, Executive Director

Present: Joseph Morehouse, Deputy Director

Amber Miller, Planning & Research Specialist

Jada Hahlbrock, Management Assistant

Audience: Art Low, Republic Parking

Dave Askins, *Ann Arbor Chronicle*

Frances Todoro, SSAA

Mary Thieferls, Neutral Zone

John Weiss, Neutral Zone

Scott Munzel

Ray Detter, Downtown Area CAC

Alan Haber

Andrew Cluley, 89.1 WEMU

Amy Biolchini, AA.com

Nancy Shore, getDowntown

Veena Kulkarni, shur

David McNamara, shur

2. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Jon Weiss and Mary Thieferls from the Neutral Zone thanked the DDA for its support over the years, saying that DDA assistance had made many projects possible. This summer, a DDA grant will fund a work-study program in which teens will design, budget, plan and document their work towards a public art installation. They expressed their appreciation for this partnership.

David McNamara from shur explained that their group is made up of young professionals who live in, work in and love Ann Arbor. They are a group dedicated to making the Ann Arbor area a place where young people want to live and more importantly, stay. They are eager to work with the DDA to help promote the brand of downtown Ann Arbor.

Alan Haber said that his group continues to gather information in hopes of creating a temporary artificial skating rink atop the Library Lane lot. They recently met with the City Attorney’s office to
explore a change to the City/ DDA parking contract that would establish a “public land non-parking” designation for the site.

3. REPORTS FROM CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council. Mr. Detter said members of the CAC wanted to invite members of the DDA to the Annual Downtown Party that will occur on June 6.

Mr. Detter said the CAC consists of individuals who live in the DDA District who are appointed to by Mayor and City Council. Their downtown address and the desire to make the downtown a better place are the only qualifications for membership. The CAC members meet monthly at City Hall, and there are currently four open spaces. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact the Mayor’s office to apply.

Members of the Education Committee of the Downtown Historical Street Exhibit Program met recently to prepare for the annual high school downtown walking tours. The tours will take place on May 15 and 16. Senior Guides and trained High School Junior guides will lead 600 students from Skyline and Community High Schools on 13 guided tours of downtown exhibit sites. There are now 23 glass frames, almost 60 porcelain enamel wall images, pedestal maps and bronze artifact replicas in downtown Ann Arbor. A new element of the walking tours is the inclusion of a “Resource Person” on each tour. People like Mark Hodesh, Greg Pee and Eunice Burns will share their knowledge of Ann Arbor history. The CAC thanks the DDA for its continued support of the program. Future projects include making the displays and walking tours interactive.

4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DDA MEMBERS

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Guenzel moved and Mr. Collins seconded approval of the April 3, 2013 meeting minutes.

A vote on the motion showed:
AYES: Collins, Guenzel, Gunn, Hieftje, Lowenstein, Orr, Smith, Split
NAYS: none
ABSENT: Hewitt, Mouat, Nassif
ABSTAIN: Clark
The motion carried.

6. A. PARTNERSHIPS/ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Grant Request. Ms. Smith said that the Partnerships Committee met a second time with Mr. Haber and Mr. Gordon to understand their $25,000 grant request for an artificial skating rink on the Library Lane structure surface lot. Much information is not yet clear, and it was agreed that Mr. Haber & Mr. Gordon would work with a subcommittee of Partnerships to help them develop their proposal more fully, before coming back to the full Committee.
Ms. Smith said City Council member Sally Peterson attended the committee meeting and presented her proposal that an economic development taskforce be created with representatives from Council, DDA and SPARK. Her resolution will go to City Council later in May.

Ms. Lowenstein said that the primary focus of the May committee meeting will be a presentation from Paul Krutko/SPARK regarding their strategic work plan.

The next Partnerships/Economic Development Committee meeting will be May 8th at 9:00am.

6. B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Transportation Projects. Mr. Orr said that May is Commuter Challenge month. So far over 1400 people, representing 232 organizations have signed up to participate. A grand opening party will be held for the Maynard Structure Bike House on Friday, May 17th at 8:30am.

Ms. Smith asked if March parking data was available yet; Mr. Orr said that the Committee meeting had been canceled but the parking report had been emailed to DDA members for their review.

The next Operations Committee meeting will be May 29th at 11:00am.

7. OTHER DDA BUSINESS
None.

8. OTHER AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION
None.

9. ADJOURNMENT
There being no other business, Mr. Guenzel moved and Mr. Splitt seconded a motion to adjourn. Ms. Gunn declared the meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director