ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
DDA BOARD RETREAT MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

Place: Blake Transit Center, 358 S. Fifth Avenue, Ann Arbor, 48104

Time: 8:00 a.m.

DDA Present: Cyndi Clark, Bob Guenzel, Roger Hewitt, Joan Lowenstein, Al McWilliams, John Mouat, Rishi Narayan, Keith Orr, Steve Powers, Sandi Smith, John Split

DDA Absent: none

DDA Staff: Susan Pollay, Joe Morehouse, Amber Miller, Jada Hahlbrock, Christine Knight

Public: Nancy Shore, Eleanor Hagan, Casey Ketda, Ray Detter

1. **Welcome** - Mr. Mouat and Ms. Pollay welcomed everyone and stated the desired outcomes for the day.

2. **Street Framework Plan and CIP** - Ms. Miller used maps to share key findings from the Framework Plan. She also provided information about downtown projects included in the City’s CIP.

3. **Financial Considerations** - Mr. Morehouse reported on available project & grant funds for FY 2016-2020. Questions were asked and answered, including about funds set aside in the Housing and Parking Maintenance funds.

4. **DDA Project List** - Ms. Pollay shared an updated version of the DDA project list. She said Smith Group/JJR developed cost estimates for many of the projects.

5. **DDA Presentations** - Board members each took a few minutes to talk about a project that interested them. They spoke to the impacts and benefits of the project, as well as how it would meet the DDA mission.

6. **Evaluating and Scheduling Potential Projects** - Board members worked in small groups to evaluate projects and consider timing as related to City CIP work and the DDA budget.

7. **Report Out** - There was Board consensus to implement improvements on 5th/Detroit Streets, Huron Street, a pilot project to test a wider sidewalk on S. State, and restoring two-way traffic on First and Ashley Streets. There was also consensus about budgeting funds annually for sidewalk repairs and for water mains and conduits. There was interest in funding studies such as traffic counts, finding ways to support quality of life, and funding a parking demand study that would lead to a set of parking and transportation strategies.

8. **Next Steps** - DDA staff will develop scenarios for these projects that will be presented first to the Finance Committee to ensure their feasibility, and then brought to the full board for
prioritization. DDA staff will also work with AAATA on the transportation-related items, including downtown circulator and demand study.

9. **Organizational Preparedness**- Mr. Mouat said that board and staff changes in the future that could impact how the DDA moves forward with these projects.

10. **Public Comment**- Ray Detter said that his role as chair of the Downtown Citizens Advisory Council is to represent the interests of downtown residents. He feels the current DDA board is one of the best ever.

Nancy Shore said she supports the DDA’s work on transportation related projects and goals. She said there is a lot of data available at getDowntown and AAATA that could help in the decision making process and she is happy to be a resource.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.
Respectfully submitted, Susan Pollay, Executive Director