

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting-Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87090832881>
by phone 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 870 9083 2881 Password: 650730)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Present: Micah Bartelme, Bob Guenzel, Tyler Kinley

Committee Absent: Darren McKinnon

Others: Matt Carpenter/AAATA, Ali Ramlawi/City Council, Jane Lumm/City Council, Josie Parker/AADL, Brandon Tucker/WCC, Shannon Gibbs Randall/Planning Commission

Other DDA Present: None

Staff: Susan Pollay, Maura Thomson, Jada Hahlbrock, Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

Virtual Meeting Guidelines: Mr. Kinley outlined the guidelines given to public bodies to hold electronic meetings as outlined in Governor Whitmer's Executive Order #2020-129.

Committee Name Change: Mr. Bartelme said that the DDA had changed the name of the Committee slightly from the Partnerships/Economic Development Committee to Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee. He said that this change was made to underscore the DDA's commitment to tangibly making progress to create more affordable housing units in and near downtown. It also underscores the DDA's interest in working with its taxing authority partners to find ways to strengthen the community's economic base building on the synergy created by having the Library, City, WCC, DDA, AAATA and County meeting together regularly at the same table. Questions were asked and answered.

Partner Updates:

AAATA: Mr. Carpenter said information will soon go out about TheRide's August service change, which will increase service from 20% of normal capacity to as much as 60%, pending UM's plans. The BTC will reopen on August 2nd. Installation of plexiglass protection for drivers is underway. AAATA anticipates an extended period of reduced revenues and probable state budget cuts. Questions were asked and answered about specific routes.

AADL: Ms. Parker said the Library is open for contactless lobby and locker pick-up and patrons have access to library staff 12-8pm Mon-Sun via a lobby kiosk. WIFI capacity has been increased because on-site computing services are not able to be resumed. She said AADL remains fiscally conservative in its planning due to anticipated property tax reductions. Questions were asked and answered.

City Council: CM Ramlawi reported Council approved moving forward to pre-entitle the 415 W. Washington site. Ms. Gibbs-Randall said there are considerable utility issues near this site which should

be considered as the pre-entitlement plan is assembled; Mr. Ramlawi said he would let Mr. Delacourt know. CM Lumm reported the City approved its FY21 budget, but a pandemic response plan has been put into effect. For instance, senior staff have taken pay cuts and any new hires are on-hold. CM Ramlawi shared that businesses are thankful for the DDA's support through the curbside pick-up and the pilot curbside dining extended sidewalk/patio program.

DDA: Ms. Thomson reported on the DDA's COVID-19 efforts. DDA continues to respond to requests for additional curbside pick-up locations. The DDA, City and merchant associations continue to collaborate on the pilot street closure and extended sidewalk/patio program. Ms. Thomson worked with the City Communications staff to create 500 posters and 100 yard signs promoting social distancing and mask wearing. The DDA and City's Healthy Streets projects were approved by City Council on 7/6 and City and DDA staff are working to get this implemented by early August. The parking system is open and the DDA continues to monitor revenues. The First/Ashley project is moving forward; currently there is work underway on both the east and west sides of First Street.

Planning Commission: Ms. Gibbs-Randall reported that the Commission is currently reviewing a hotel project on Jackson Road. The new EV charging station ordinance will come to Council soon. The revised sign ordinance will be coming to Council soon as well.

Washtenaw Community College: Mr. Tucker reported WCC plans to open on August 31st with 80% online and 20% on-ground courses (e.g., labs). The incoming 35-37 police academy recruits will be attending on-ground with all appropriate health guidelines in place. WCC will remain fiscally cautious, anticipating enrollment to remain down for at least FY21. Enrollment reduction forecast is 5-6%.

Public Comment: None.

The next Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee meeting (DDA only) is scheduled for August 12 at 9 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director