

**Downtown Area Citizens Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, June 30, 2020 7pm ZOOM meeting**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85148923336>

Meeting ID: 851 4892 3336

Password: 293924

Attendance: Caroline Arcure, Joseph Arcure, Chuck Bultman, Peter Honeyman, Steve Kaplan, John Kotarski, Julie Ritter

CAC Liaison: Ray Detter

Guest: Susan Pollay/DDA; Geoffrey Henny/Library Lot Commons,

CAC members began the meeting by talking about the downtown street closures and use of parking spaces to support social distancing. It appears that many businesses are taking good advantage of the added space. The uptick in activity is definitely welcomed, and we all hope that these measures will help keep businesses afloat during these tough times. We noted that the federal PPP program was not designed well to help the local restaurants. So having more space outdoors for customers may be the only way some businesses may remain open. But it was also noticed that with the sidewalk cafes the sidewalk are being narrowed, making it feel unsafe to be so close to other people when you need to pass them on the sidewalk. This then forces pedestrians into the street where they are faced with tables or cars. Plus the street closures create a challenge for customers doing food pickup, and they are apt to use any available curb space, including the new William Street bikeway. If the program will continue in future years it will be helpful to find ways to manage these challenges.

Susan provided an update about the Healthy Streets programs. This includes a proposal from the DDA and City for temporary pilot bikeway projects in downtown and on arterials leading to downtown which will be considered by City Council at their July 6 meeting. It also includes the "Slow Streets Program" program in the neighborhoods, which temporarily closes streets to through traffic but allows local traffic and is designed so neighbors can walk and bike more comfortably in the middle of the street. I

Mr. Henny/Library Lot Commons said the group will present a special event on the Library Lot on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 12noon-3pm. He affirmed that their goal is to create a Commons as has been done around the world, including supporting a parallel economy utilizing a local currency.

And Ray Detter provided an update on the Historic Street Exhibit program. He said that permission had recently been granted to install an enamel historic exhibit panel entitled "The Corners of South University and East University Avenues" on the recently constructed Vic North building. This is very exciting, and once installed, this location will be included as part of future downtown historic tours.