

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting-Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88217657948> or by phone 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 882 1765 7948 Password: 169268)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Present: Bob Guenzel, Tyler Kinley, Darren McKinnon

Committee Absent: Micah Bartelme

Other DDA Present: Jessica A.S. Letaw

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.

DDA/City Council Joint Work Session. The Committee debriefed about the session held the night before. Ms. Thomson reminded the group that the meeting is held as required by the City/DDA parking agreement. Ms. Pollay said that affordable housing had been added to the agenda this year because of the overlap with parking, as several lots are being examined for possible redevelopment with affordable housing, thus raising questions about parking impacts. She noted that nearly everyone on the DDA board had attended, yet there were no opportunities for engagement with members of City Council. She asked whether future work session should be conducted solely by staff. Committee members noted the benefits to having DDA board members attending, and there was consensus to instead work to revise the meeting agenda and framework to make it more purposeful and meaningful moving forward.

November Agenda: The group discussed possible agenda topics for the next meeting with Partners. Mr. Kinley suggested and there was agreement to invite all the incoming Council members to attend as guests as an opportunity to learn more about the DDA. It was agreed to invite Ron Stevens of the Michigan Small Business Development Center to attend the November Committee meeting to provide insight into what the businesses need to help them survive amid the pandemic. Ms. Thomson will also be asked to share insights gleaned from meetings with the downtown associations. Other speakers recommended for future meetings included Phil Santer (SPARK), Andy LaBarre (Chamber), Mike Rein (UM) and Rich Chang (New Foundry).

Public Comment: None.

The next Affordable Housing/Economic Development Committee meeting (with Partners) is scheduled for November 18 at 9 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director