

**ANN ARBOR DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

Place: Virtual Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106133114?pwd=bFJjYXVRQWFRSDdsRzVrR0p4bzIUQT09>
by Phone: 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 841 0613 3114 Passcode: 982596)

Time: 11:00 am

Committee Present: Alex Dieck, Tyler Kinley, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Molly McFarland, Darren McKinnon

Committee Absent: Micah Bartelme

Staff: Maura Thomson, Amber Miller, Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves, Liz Rolla

Others Present: Oliver Kiley, Bob Doyle/Smith Group, Jason Ennis/Ann Arbor Art Center

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

NOTE: As required by the amended OMA, all attending members stated they were attending remotely and doing so from Ann Arbor, Michigan

Virtual Meeting Guidelines: Ms. McFarland outlined the guidelines for electronic meetings.

Public Art Grant for Ann Arbor Art Center-Huron, First & Ashley Corridors: Ms. Miller stated that as part of the City CIP process, the Public Art Commission recommends projects that they feel should use a portion of their budget on public art. As part of this they recommended that the DDA set aside a portion of the Huron and First and Ashley project budgets for public art. Mr. Ennis, consultant for the Ann Arbor Art Center presented a proposal requesting up to \$80,000 in the First and Ashley Street Project area and up to \$50,000 in the Huron Street Project area for public art installations. These grant funds would be allocated from the First/Ashley/William/Huron bond dollars with the stipulation the projects be completed by end of the bond term on February 6, 2022. The proposed installations include murals on private buildings and a sculpture. The Committee asked Staff to get clarification by the June board meeting on whether there is a minimum length of time a business owner must maintain the public art murals on their buildings and if bond dollars may be used to install public art on private property. The Committee agreed to bring the resolution to the Board with further clarification to be added to the resolution about the relationship between The Art District and the Ann Arbor Art Center.

People-Friendly Streets 2: The Committee received an overview of the State Street Project and Division Street Project design work underway. State Street is a joint project with the City whose work will include upsizing the watermain and road resurfacing. The DDA's focus will be sidewalk widening, lighting, curbside use, and bikeway connection. The City is responsible for bidding out the project and the DDA will have a cost-share agreement with the City. The curbless approach being explored for State Street reinforces pedestrian-focus, fluid movement between curb and sidewalk, and flexibility for special events and street closures.

The Division Street bikeway received strong support at the March community outreach. Construction will begin in late summer. Ms. Miller also reviewed CIP recommendations which will come back to the June CIC meeting for recommendation to the Board. The Miller/Catherine Project will include watermain upsizing, streetscape restoration, bikeway connection and alley way restoration in 2022 ahead of the AAHC's project to develop affordable housing on the site. The DDA's work to widen the sidewalk and

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add a mid-block crossing for bus riders in support of the AAHC's planned affordable housing development on the 350 S. Fifth lot will be undertaken when development is complete. Questions were asked and answered.

Construction Updates: Ms. Rolla said First Street is being prepared for paving north of Miller to the Kingsley bend. Ashley Street south of Huron is being prepped for paving next week. The signal foundations on Huron at First and Ashley are being installed. Construction of the bump out on Ashley at Ann St will begin next week.

Bond Dollars Update: Ms. Miller provided an update on the remaining bond dollars that must be spent by February 2022.

Other Updates: Staff met with the fire department to discuss the proposed festoon lighting on Ashley Street where unfilled vaults do not allow for sidewalk improvements. The fire code does not allow festoon lighting adjacent to buildings with more than two-stories. The team is exploring other options. The DDA would be responsible for maintaining the lights.

Ms. Miller said feedback from City staff and the public on the William Street bikeway have informed design improvements for future bikeways. Based on this feedback, improvements will be made to William Street bikeway including replacing the delineators with curbed buffers to make snow removal easier and, the addition of barrier-free access for bus riders along the bikeway.

Building Vault Filling Program: Per the DDA Building Vault Program Guidelines, all vault filling requests above \$10K require CIC approval. An application from The 115 W. Liberty Condominium Association in the amount of \$10,671 was presented for consideration. Ms. Thomson stated that the Ann Arbor Art Center, owned by board member Marie Klopff, has an ownership interest in this property and occupies a portion of the building. Questions were asked and answered.

A voice vote on the application to approve a vault filling grant to the 115 W. Liberty Street Condominium Association showed the following:

Ayes: Dieck, Kinley, Letaw, McKinnon

Nays: None

Absent: Bartelme, McFarland (left meeting for another appointment prior to the vote)

The application was approved.

Public Comment: Mr. Dick Mitchell and Mr. Bill Kinley both expressed appreciation for the DDA's continued efforts to find a lighting solution for the Ashley Street area. Mr. Kinley spoke last month and said again today that the sidewalk level drainage issue in the alleyway between Three Chairs and Old Town Restaurant needs to be addressed. This borders public and private property.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 16 at 11 am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Thomson, Interim Executive Director