AADL: The Library had Epic MRA conduct a survey of its community base. This survey is usually conducted every two years but was delayed due to the pandemic. It is an opportunity for the Library Board to hear what community thinks about and wants from the Library and helps inform decisions about its future plans. The full survey results report will be shared with the Library Board later this month. Mr. Neiburger said the survey results show support for renovating the current main library vs. replacing/building new. There is also support for partnering with a developer for a mixed-use development with the Library on the main levels and a mix of housing on the upper levels. There was discussion about possible partnerships, rezoning the Library property from public to D1 to allow for private development, etc.

AAHC: Ms. Seyfarth said the 121 Catherine project is scheduled to go to the Planning Commission next week. There was discussion about the community space included in the plans and how best to use and operate it. The 350 S. Fifth Avenue project is in the schematic design phase.

City Council: Ms. Cornell provided an overview of the Economic Development Corporation, of which she is a member. The EDC was established years ago by the City to approve bonds. The group has not approved a bond in years. They are in the process of defining their purpose/role moving forward.

DDA: Phase 2 of the State Street project, a collaboration between the DDA and the City, is underway. Phase 2 runs from North U to Huron and includes streetscape work (curbless design) to Washington Street and watermain and resurfacing work to Huron. The contractor anticipates completing the project by September.

Updated signage has been installed on the rooftop level of all parking structures. DDA staff worked with Community Mental Health (CMH) and the Center for Health and Research Transformation (CHRT) at U of M to ensure rooftop signage includes the most helpful contact information and messaging for those in crisis. Staff continue to work with CMH and CHRT on additional signs for other areas in the structures and for distribution to downtown businesses interested in displaying this information. At the March DDA Operations Committee engineering consultants will be presenting information on costs for completing the fencing on below rooftop levels (80% complete) and additional options for the rooftop level.

A consultant team has recently been hired to do a comprehensive parking system rate analysis study. The DDA last addressed parking rates in 2018 when a 5 year rate plan was put in place, the final increase
of this plan occurred in July of 2022. The 2018 strategy addressed monthly permits and on-street parking rates only. Parking structure rates were not part of this plan, structure rates have remained constant at $1.20 since 2012. The study is scheduled to get underway this month and continuing into the Fall of 2023. The DDA Finance and Operations Committees will be working together to bring recommendations to the DDA board.

The project team has begun work on the final engineering and construction documents for the Fourth Avenue project. This project is a collaboration between the DDA, the City, the AAATA, and the AAHC and includes pedestrian and transit improvements along Fourth Ave. between William & Liberty along with stormwater improvements and street resurfacing.

Public Comment: Mr. Honeyman commented on the Center of the City in response to the group’s general discussion about the Library Lot in relation to the Library’s possible future renovation plans and the 350 S. Fifth Avenue project.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am

Respectfully submitted,
Kelley A. Graves, Board Secretary