

Meeting Description: Downtown Public Restroom Work Group (DPRWG) Final 2023 Meeting - Finalize Site Selection & Review Pilot Metrics and Actions

Meeting Date: September 18, 2023 **Meeting Time:** 1:00pm

Meeting Location: Virtual

Date Issued: September 28, 2023 **Issued by:** Jon Bixby

Attendees:

Amber Miller, Capital Projects & Planning Manager, Ann Arbor DDA
Maura Thomson, Communications Manager, Ann Arbor DDA
Christopher Wall , PE, PTOE, Vice President, Business Development Lead, Wade Trim
Jon Bixby, Professional Engineer, Wade Trim
Laura Orta, Director of Organizational Equity, City of Ann Arbor
Sandra Andrade, Executive Director, Main Street Area Association
Skye Stewart, Chief of Staff, Public Services Administration
Eli Neiburger, Deputy Director, Ann Arbor District Library
Daniel Kelly, MSW, Executive Director, Shelter Association
Alex Gossage, Executive Director at Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
Angela Heflin, Executive Director, State Street District
AJ Davidson, Owner, Bivouac- and State Street District President

Discussion

Chris starts meeting with introductions and begins the presentation.

Amber reminds the group of AAPD input that she previously emailed, summarizing their response. The only site that they had reservation about is the site on Fourth Avenue south of Catherine as it is a lower activity area and near a known narcotics distribution site.

Chris discusses the eight eliminated sites, the reasons they were eliminated, and the three potential sites for the DRPWG to assess (Washington near Main, Liberty near Maynard, Fourth Ave near Catherine).

Angela asks about mobility of the unit regarding the location on the south side of Liberty, west of Maynard. Angela is concerned about losing space reserved for the Art Fair.

Amber mentions per Throne's contract we can temporarily relocate the unit if needed.

AJ is concerned about lines forming outside NECTO and the impact on the unit if placed at the Liberty location. AJ also notes that State Street businesses don't think that a public restroom is needed in their neighborhood and are concerned about the potential for a public restroom.

Chris responds that there is flexibility about shifting the unit along Liberty to accommodate concerns that NECTO may have, provided there is a flat surface and electrical access.

Chris discusses the Secondary Criteria Summary and desire for two location recommendations from the DRPWG that will be included in the Throne contract for DDA board and City Council approval.

The DPRWG voted on the three sites, and the consensus is that the Washington and Main site is the most supported. The Fourth Avenue and Liberty sites are evenly split.

Eli had to leave early due to another meeting. In the chat, he communicates that all are good options; with 3 (Liberty) as the best, followed by 2 (Washington/Main) and 1 (Fourth Ave) as a fairly weak option.

AJ and Angela both share that they feel the Washington/Main and Fourth Ave sites are the best locations.

Sandra mentions a potential conflict with the Washington and Main site as there is a proposed building at that location. It is discussed the unit can be moved temporarily or located across the street if/when the site development is under construction and that Wade Trim is looking into these alternative locations nearby.

Maura and Skye perceive the Washington and Main location as being highly foot trafficked relative to the other sites. They also feel that all are good options but prefer the Liberty location as the second location because it is also highly trafficked.

Laura likes the opportunities for solar and carbon neutral facilities that Fourth Avenue can provide and would like to place less weight on the AAPD input.

Sandra agrees that Main/Washington is a good option.

Alex agrees that all are good options; at first, they leaned more toward the Washington/Main and Liberty sites, but they note that it may be good to have a pilot location like Fourth Ave that is less active/distinct.

Dan agrees that Washington/Main is a good location but doesn't have an immediate priority between the other two locations.

Angela inquires if the perspectives of other businesses were also considered for these meetings.

Amber explains that all associations were invited to participate.

AJ suggested businesses be notified of the assessments made by the DPRWG.

Maura reminds the group that this is a one-year pilot with the intent to monitor and gather feedback during that period.

Amber briefly discusses the pilot metrics – and reinforces Maura's statement about the intent of the pilot. Amber reviews the project schedule, states that this meeting would be the last meeting for the year, and thanks the group for their time and participation.

Action Items

Amber to share the recommendation statement with the DPRWG and then with DDA Board and City Council as part of the Throne Contract.

The above notes represent the writer's understanding of the items discussed and conclusions reached at the meeting. Please notify the writer immediately if your understanding is different. A clarification or correction will be issued to all parties. This document will be considered accurate if no corrections or clarifications are received within one week of issuance.

Minutes by,

Wade Trim Associates, Inc.

Jon Bixby
Professional Engineer

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cc: All Attendees