

DDA Development Citizen Advisory Council Minutes and Ideas from Meeting

Friday, September 20, 2019 2pm

Present: Tracey Scheid, Melissa Boggs, Maddie Chapman, Brandie Heyboer, Paul Williams

Lisa Hotovy-Williams, Tim Schoenherr, JoAnne Smith,

Also Present: Steve Miller, Heather Tykoski, Mitch Foster

Absent: Kris Bromley-Tosa, Brandy Miller, Morgan Fenner, Jordan Miller

The group discussed topics related to living in the DDA area and items that might be put into the plan and considered from a resident perspective.

Items include:

- 1.) WIFI/INTERNET/BROADBAND- high speed and reliable is hard. Business, remote work options could expand if WIFI was better.
- 2.) Accessibility: Post office area is a concern near the intersection of Harrison and Ludington Ave. There are large potholes and that is the accessible crosswalk. Portable ramps and overall access to buildings was discussed as a need.
- 3.) Parking spots (lack of resident areas) or less currently because of construction. Outlying parking lots need improvements. When there are events residents cannot park near their apartments. If they do they do not move cars during those times. They would like more communication on parking during these times.
- 4.) Cruise Ships: The possibility of additional cruise ships was discussed. There will be one expected in 2020. There is a need to coordinate with what is already going on.
- 5.) Green Space: more is needed and residents would like to see medians enhanced with plantings in parking lots and not just wood chips. A preference was expressed to not fill all flat spaces with concrete. Encourage flower boxes and plantings by buildings and in common areas. It is believed that this draws people out. Add rain gardens and permeable surfaces to Sportsman's lot.
- 6.) Add benches at least 2 per block to encourage walkability.
- 7.) A question was asked about the West End and if a path could be established in front of the guard rail on Stearns Outer drive for safe passage across the boat launch and parking area.
- 8.) Parking: parking right to corners on S James Street, Rath and Filer was discussed as a hazard for bikers and walkers. Cars, bikers and walkers cannot see to pull out and it is a problem. Residents present had seen people hit and near misses or had been hit themselves.
- 9.) Lighting: additional lighting in the alleys was discussed.
- 10.) Residents were asked what they loved about living in Downtown:
 - Walking everywhere and being close to everything was echoed by everyone.
 - Accessibility to amenities

- Water access & Common places and the fact that we have so many.
- being in the center of everything

11.) Bikeable goals: not very user friendly currently or walking and biking. Would love to see coin operated rental bikes. There is a lot of room for improvement in bikeability. The sand train used to have a pathway – reenergize that to be used for a biking path if any of it still exists. Parking is treacherous on corners for bikers.

12.) Take Ludington Ave back from MDOT: Slow traffic, put in boulevards (from courthouse to beach), Parallel parking is dangerous- need sot slow down. The M116 road diet had the same opposition as Ludington Ave. and it turned out well. Cost on this is unknown.

3.) Signage: incorporate “walkable” signage # minutes from one place to key destinations and critical points. (landmarks/ frequent places people go)

The DACC council felt that concerns expressed in the meeting were adequately reflected in the plan and recommended moving this forward to council. It will be re-reviewed if comments are received at the September 23 public hearing. FI the DACC needs to meet again after receiving public comments a meeting will be planned and noticed and an additional public hearing may be set.