

Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown (A2D2)

Downtown Design Guidelines

Task Force Charge

Background

From March 2007 through January 2010, the three-member A2D2 Steering Committee provided oversight for all five work plans of the A2D2 Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown project: downtown zoning changes, design guidelines creation, historic preservation updates, development process improvements, and parking and transportation strategies.

By the end of 2009, the majority of the A2D2 recommendations had been implemented, with the exception of the downtown design guidelines. Because broad oversight of the A2D2 initiatives was no longer needed, City Council dissolved the Steering Committee on January 19, 2010 and replaced it with a special task force to complete the design guidelines initiative.

City Council established the Design Guidelines Task Force on January 19, 2010 to lead an intensive review of the draft guidelines and develop a design review process that incorporates citizen involvement, local expertise, and continued public oversight. The Design Guidelines Task Force is to bring its recommendations to City Council no later than December 6, 2010.

On February 1, 2010, City Council named the following seven members to the Design Guidelines Task Force:

Marcia Higgins, City Council

Kirk Westphal, City Planning Commission

Tamara Burns

William Kinley

Richard Mitchell

Peter Pollack

Norm Tyler

The Task Force will be staffed by the Planning Division, with consultant assistance available through an existing contract with Winter & Company.

Task Force Charge

To complete the A2D2 downtown design guidelines initiative, the Design Guidelines Task Force is charged with the following tasks:

- Evaluate the current draft Downtown Design Guidelines document prepared by Winter and Company (dated September 30, 2009) in light of citizen comments received to date and identify revisions to clarify or supplement the draft guidelines.
- Examine existing and proposed design guideline review processes in other Michigan cities.
- Identify a preferred design review process for downtown Ann Arbor, and outline recommended review procedures.
- Make a final recommendation to the City Council no later than December 6, 2010, to include suggested revisions to the Downtown Design Guidelines document and an outline of the proposed downtown design review process.

Prepared March 19, 2010