

Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown
Historic Advisory Committee

November 8, 2006
6th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Members Present: Louisa Pieper, Allison Poggi, Ethel Potts, Wendy Woods

Staff Present: Kristine Kidorf

Guests: None

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review of the A2D2 Process so far

Based on the recommendations of the Downtown Residential Taskforce, in May of 2005, Calthorpe Associates was hired by the City to develop a vision for the downtown. After six months of work, including multiple opportunities for public input, Calthorpe Associates produced a report that provides a recommended vision and policy framework for downtown Ann Arbor. City Council accepted this report and directed staff to identify a strategy for implementing the recommendations.

Council approved an implementation plan in March 2006, and in September 2006, City Council established the Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown (A2D2) initiative to implement the high priority recommendations of the Downtown Development Strategies Project. The five high priority implementation initiatives are:

- Create Overlay Zoning
- Implement Urban Design Guidelines
- Clarify Historic Preservation Criteria
- Streamline Development Process
- Pursue Comprehensive Parking Strategy

3. Historic Work Plan

The items in the work plan to Clarify Historic Preservation Criteria will be completed through the following steps:

- Revise Chapter 103 of the Ann Arbor City Code to come into compliance with state law and to create consistency of review within all of the existing designated historic districts.
- Create design guidelines for the historic districts.
- Review historic districts in the downtown to determine which buildings are contributing and which are non-contributing.

4. Charge of the Historic Advisory Committee

The A2D2 Steering Committee developed a charge for the work of this advisory committee. The committee shall provide input on revisions being made to city code regarding historic preservation criteria in downtown historic districts. The committee shall:

- Evaluate data and reports provided by staff regarding historic preservation design guidelines and district designation process;
- Make recommendations to staff and ultimately to the A2D2 Steering Committee; and
- Assist with public information and outreach, including each member's constituency.

The anticipated structure is that the project lead will provide the committee of drafts of ordinance language, design guidelines, and associated materials. Meetings will be held monthly, and committee members are encouraged to provide comments to the project lead at any time.

5. Chapter 103 Discussion

A draft of Chapters 8 and 103 were distributed to the committee along with the flyers and press release regarding the public informational meetings scheduled for November 16 and 28th. An explanation of the changes was made. The committee is asked to review the draft and provide comments at the next meeting. If possible committee members are asked to attend the public informational meetings and provide support for the changes.

The committee expressed concern about the timeframe being too accelerated and more time is needed to publicize the changes and make sure people are on board with the new ordinance.

6. Next steps

Once Chapters 8 and 103 are adopted by Council, the committee will focus on design guidelines for historic districts which will be coordinated with the downtown design guidelines.

7. Next meetings

The Historic Advisory Committee will meet at 5 PM in the 6th floor conference room of City Hall on the following dates.

November 30, December 14, January 11

Prepared by Kristine Kidorf