

Ann Arbor Discovering Downtown  
Historic Advisory Committee

January 11, 2007  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

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

Staff Present: Kristine Kidorf

Guests: None

1. Update on Revisions to Chapter 8 and Chapter 103

Staff reported that the revisions to Chapter 8 and Chapter 103 are currently scheduled for the first reading at City Council's January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. If that goes well the second reading and public hearing will be at Council's February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to attend both meetings to speak in support of the proposed ordinance amendment.

2. Design Guidelines - Proposed timeframe/process

Staff reviewed a possible timeframe for developing the design guidelines that will be presented to the A2D2 Steering Committee on January 29<sup>th</sup> for their approval. Staff will begin distributing elements of the design guidelines in early February to the committee for their review and comment.

3. Design Guidelines - Review of existing/approved and 1989 downtown guidelines

Staff distributed existing design guidelines for porches, window replacement, and banners and awnings for commercial buildings. These guidelines were developed by Ann Arbor and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office in 1996. The Downtown Design guidelines developed in 1989 were also distributed. Committee members are asked to review and make comments on these existing guidelines.

4. Design Guidelines - Review of Other Cities' examples

Staff distributed examples of design guidelines from Little Rock, Arkansas (<http://www.littlerock.org/CityDepartments/PlanningAndDevelopment/subsection.aspx?PageID=70>); Grand Rapids, Michigan ([http://www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us/index.pl?page\\_id=2627](http://www.ci.grand-rapids.mi.us/index.pl?page_id=2627)); and Boulder, Colorado ([http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2033&Itemid=1862](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2033&Itemid=1862)). Little Rock's table of contents was reviewed to determine what elements should be included in Ann Arbor's design guidelines. The consensus was that a brief history of each historic district should be included similar to Little Rock and Grand Rapids.

5. Design Guidelines - Discussion about format

Staff asked committee members their preference between photographic or drawings to illustrate the design guidelines. The consensus was that drawings would be better.

6. Design Guidelines - Discussion about language/tone

Staff distributed a document comparing language from 4 different design guidelines for fencing to discuss the tone preferred for Ann Arbor's design guidelines. A consensus regarding the language was not reached.

7. Next Meetings

The Historic Advisory Committee will meet at 5 PM in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall on the following dates:

February 8, February 22, March 8, March 22

Prepared by Kristine Kidorf