

Some thoughts to consider,

You are a marvelous presenter of the story. very open and engaging In my view though. the passage through the various City efforts understates that Library Lot development was a matter of contention from Day 1.

When the underground was being discussed, there was already a City plan to build a big building. We the park seeking people, like Eppie Potts, were assured nothing done below foreclosed any possibility of what could happen above.

However, already under the table, Roger Frazier, City Administrator, had the (Victors) Valiant proposal for the conference center. from New York developer, ex All-American Michigan football player Fritz Seyferth.

There were 4 build proposals responsive to RFP 743, and 2 public space proposals, from Dennis Dahlmann and me and Alice, as the Ann Arbor Committee for the Community Commons.

We had to make an explicit demand that the proposal need not be revenue producing,; it could be revenue neutral, making no ongoing demand on city general funds.

This was acknowledged and "agreed" in the revised requirements of the proposals.

We also had to make a special appeal that our proposals be actually heard, rather than dismissed, with even a presentation and hearing.

The Council Subcommittee dealing with the responses to RFP 743 agreed to have a presentation, It was held in the Library Board meeting room. The Chamber of Commerce chair of the time, a past School of Social Work faculty when I was in the community organization program, was over heard, by me, to grumble with his suited buddies on the side "Why do we have to go through with the waste of time? I thought the skids were greased for [the Conference Center] approval".

Neither of our proposals were given any further consideration. The Town square seeded with 2.5 million Dahlmann dollars did no better than the commons, financed by bake sales.

there was a government big build will and a public park green seeking will from the beginning and they were not the same.

Yet your story narrates the government documents, the council resolution rejecting the valiant, the parks commission, the DDA and Connecting William Street and the OM offering memorandum.

The Committee for the Commons, which I represent, so to speak, is omitted. Likewise the Public Process for Public Space group initiated by Vivianne Armatrout carried on the challenge of how things were being done. The Library Green Conservancy, of which I was also an initiator, was a formalization of the "grass roots" networks though with a more limited vision than the committee for the commons, and which initially did not support Proposal A, holding they could discuss and negotiate and influence and improve the city government plans.

They joined the Proposal A campaign only when they realized that high ideal was not happening/

You omit also that the Committee for the Commons response Proposal to the Offering Memorandum, June 1, 2015, was not even acknowledged, not by the City nor the CRNE International Broker group to which the Council delegated the problem of finding a project they would like.

You omit to not that the reason for Proposal A was that the City Council would not even consider for discussion a public use development PDU alternative to the big build.
This was, is the BIO Ann Arbor, Best Interest of Ann Arbor. Resolution in 9 Whereases and 7 Sections of an enabling Ordinance. That refusal even to look at an alternative, and allow discussion, before any decision was made, made clear enough that there was no democracy here and appeal to the people and petition for redress of grievance was called for.

BIO Ann Arbor represents the summation of the public process up to that point of electoral choice, and it is a beginning point in what we are charged to take forward.

It is not for us to open the question again of "what is the commons."

The commons is a traditional form of shared ownership of resources for mutual benefit, with mutual responsibility and mutual respect. We need to give meaning to that in the center of ann arbor, and to invite people, everyone, to give meaning to that in their own needs, desires, capacities, ideas, aspirations and concerns.

It is not necessary to get into the past contentions, but at least acknowledge that where we are is the product of 10 years of struggle and insistence by a growing group of people who appealed to democracy above the experts and government official plans.

a great opportunity.

the one thing i would like you change is the designation of Stepan's drawings The first, left, drawing by Stepan of the public land on the block, is part of the picture of the commons, commissioned and directed to provide an image of an integrated area with a civic center building and connection with Liberty Plaza

The other picture of his that you show of an open structure building is his idea of another way to think of things, if you want a big building, not a representation of the commons .

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