



**MINUTES OF THE JOINT WORK SESSION
ADA TOWNSHIP BOARD and ADA TOWNSHIP DDA BOARD
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.
ROSELLE PARK - 1010 GRAND RIVER DR NE, ADA, MI**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Haga.

ADA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Haga, Treasurer Moran, Trustees Hurwitz, Jacobs, LeBlanc, and Proos

ADA BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Clerk Smith

DDA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Bowersox, Bryan Harrison, Bob Kullgren, Devin Norman, Ted Wright, Margaret Idema, Justin Knapp (arrived 7:10)

DDA BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Walt VanderWulp

OTHERS PRESENT: Planning Director Jim Ferro, Parks Director Mark Fitzpatrick, Planning Commissioner Dan Carter, DDA Coordinator Brian Hilbrands

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Bowersox, supported by Proos, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

III. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATIONS FOR COMMUNITY CENTER / LIBRARY

Planning Director Ferro stated that Amway has come forward with an alternative proposal for the Community Center/ Library to be on the south side of Headley. He then presented a historical overview. The original plan began with the charrette in 2006, and in 2013 the Envision Ada Plan was proposed for the north side of Headley Street. In 2016 a preliminary plan was prepared for the DDA to conduct a Capital Campaign Feasibility Study, and the total floor area for the library, community meeting rooms, and 3-season pavilion was increased to 16,080 square feet. He stated the plan for the north side of Headley Street is in response to the design principles established through the 2006 charrette and carried forward to the 2013 Envision Ada planning process. The plan is responsive to the input from a large number of people in the community over the last 10 years. He stated Board members should evaluate both alternatives based on their responsiveness to the design principles established for the village, and whether each sufficiently honors both historical public input and current public input.

Rob Hunter, Amway, explained the alternative proposal of the Community Center / Library being on the south side of Headley Street. Amway is proposing to purchase property from the Community Church on the south side of Headley Street for the Community Center / Library, with meeting rooms on the second floor. He stated this option would make the community more walkable; and it would be a hub in the heart of the village. He also stated the Rix Robinson monument could be placed at the intersection of Headley and Fulton. Amway plans to use a couple of plots of the green space on the north side of Headley, and the t-shaped green space that is left can be used by the Township. The plan is to use the Community Church parking area and expand on that. It was suggested that the Farmer's Market could be along the river, and the possibility exists to also use the new River Street for the parades.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Rebecca asked what the availability of services would be at that location. Kullgren replied that he believed they plan to replicate the services provided at the other 13 branches, but they would be looking for community input. KDL Director Lance Werner stated they would provide whatever is wanted by the community.

Debora stated she was excited about a library but had safety concerns with it being so close to Fulton.

Kindell Rerucha questioned about library programs.

Randy Damstra commended Rob Hunter for proposing to move the Farmer's Market to the river location.

There was expressed the need to address with the Kent County Road Commission that people are driving way too fast on Fulton, and they are flying through on Ada Drive near the bike shop so traffic needs to be slowed down through the village with a round-about or something.

Billy Norden, Pastor at Community Church, stated he liked the south side option. We see great synergy in a relationship with this.

Corky Paul stated the desire expressed with the charrette to create a sense of community. The Board and the DDA should consider that the south side would be more attractive and more cost effective.

Matthew Michiels, owner of the Gravel Bottom, stated he liked the idea of having green space by the river frontage, and felt the south side option would help address parking needs.

Edward Kuo thought festival space should be at the riverfront and River Street.

Bernie Veldkamp agreed with the south side, and the green space along the river. He was concerned with too much congestion and that it will be over developed and the green space could be lost.

Ben Seitsema stated the alternative plan seems like a much better plan. We need the opportunity to highlight the water ways.

U. Turan, owner of Zeytin, stated he is in favor of the south side proposal.

Mark Fitzpatrick, Parks Director, thanked everyone for their work on this over the years. We want to be sure moving forward that we try to retain all of the green space. We also need to think about appropriate plans for the splash pad and ice rink.

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Proos stated this completely sense. He agreed with Mark Fitzpatrick's comments about green space, but stated we also have limited land and parking. The Board needs to get behind this 100%. He also talked about the need for financial responsibility and believe it should be a split expense with half paid by the DDA and half paid by the Township Board.

DDA Chair Kullgren stated he does not think the splash pad and ice rink would fit in the river park. More information is needed regarding plans for River Street. He suggested moving the skating rink from Leonard Field to the north side of Headley. He also asked Rob Hunter if there would be a long-term commitment on the Community Church parking lot.

Mr. Hunter stated they had been working with the church on this and that there would be a long-term agreement regarding parking.

Brian Harrison commented on page 9 of the historic presentation that Ferro presented, noting that almost all of the community preferences have been completed.

Treasurer Moran stated the Community Church is a great community neighbor and applauded those involved for allowing the proposal to get to this point. He liked the south proposal and stated it had a lot of flexibility. He was concerned about the traffic on Headley Street and the Ada Drive/Thornapple intersection. He stated the library and Farmer's Market should be at the top of the list regarding amenities.

Trustee LeBlanc stated one thing to keep in mind is this option wasn't even a choice when the charrette was done.

Supervisor Haga stated that he supported Proposal B, and that what's most important is what is best for the community overall.

Trustee Hurwitz stated he liked the south side proposal, and he agreed that traffic control was needed.

VII. Adjournment

The work session was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Smith
Ada Township Clerk

Date

JS/dr