Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 14, 2019 9:00 a.m.
LEAP Boardroom | 1000 S. Washington Avenue, Suite #201 Lansing, MI 48910

Members Present: Jonathan Lum, Joan Nelson, Scott Gillespie, Yvette Collins, Elaine Barr
Mayoral Designee: Dr. Andrea McSwain
Members Absent: Joseph Ruth
Facilitator Present: Anum Mughal, LEAP
Guests: Andrew Klippatrick (City of Lansing), Ericka Hartigan (CATA), Laurie Baumer (Capital Region Community Foundation), Heather Mahone (MSU CED) and Jody Washington (Lansing City Council)
Public Present: Hannah Bryant (LEAP), Kris Klein (LEAP), John Shaski (Sparrow) and John Monberg (MSU)

Recorded by: Yvette Collins

Lum welcomed everyone and called the MACIA Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting initiated with the introduction of the board members and guests.

Approval of Minutes (Action)

MOTION: Nelson moved to approve the MACIA Regular meeting minutes from the Thursday, April 12th, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, as presented. Motion seconded by Gillespie.

YEAS: Unanimous. Motion carried.
Nays: -

Development and TIF Plan
The board reviewed the budget dollars on page 20 of the working document of MACIA Development and TIF Plan. Lum provided an overview of wayfinding signage – ways to install better signage to let people know where the amenities are along the corridor.

Nelson and Mughal shared that there is hope that the budget will be approved by the end of this year. The timeline for TIF plan was also discussed. The board expressed that it is a priority to submit the Plan to the Council as soon as it's reviewed by the City Attorney and adopted by the board. The board expressed that they will engage with the public for support. Nelson shared that there could be challenges/grievances to get the Plan passed but the board shall share the vision of what the main street of the city
should look like. Baumer pointed out that it's important to be a public/private connection to turn the narrative around.

- **Bike Rack Installations/CATA shelters**
  Gillespie shared that his development projects include more bike racks now. Hartigan also shared that CATA is doing more with their new bus shelters to incorporate bike racks. CATA has 5 shelters in the early phase, anticipating more. The first one is downtown by the Lansing Center with new amenities with solar lighting and they may target areas for more where there are new shelters.

- **Scooter Parking**
  Nelson points out about the parking that is like what is outside of the Y; not sure of what's going on with scooters. Kilpatrick noted that MSU is negotiating with their preferred vendors for scooters.

- **Banner Installations**
  Lum expressed that it's important to highlight different seasons/activities via banners. Kilpatrick pointed out that the banners can't be out there for more than 6 months. If they are out there for longer, they require a city maintenance agreement. Lum pointed out the idea behind banners would be to switch things up seasonally. Washington pointed out that banners are good if it does not look like a circus. Additionally, it was highlighted that the poles where the banners are hung are usually BWL poles, not city poles.

- **Infrastructure**
  Nelson raised a concern about pedestrian infrastructure and inquired if there are any additional infrastructure items included in the City’s plan. Kilpatrick responded that it depends on if its budgeted. Current plan is to complete restructuring of the road, which would include trash cans, maybe not benches.

  **Trash Cans:** Discussion about trash cans included funding source. The overall discussion seemed to be that the city has to have a funding source for trash cans. Trash cans should look consistent (i.e. same style/color). Some of the trash cans cost $900 - $1,000 per trash can, for the ones that are currently downtown. There was a question directed to Gillespie about trash cans, and he asserted that they would want to be consistent with the area so there is some cohesiveness by district. Gillespie indicated they are happy to have them; focused on areas in front of their properties. He asserts that not everyone will maintain them the way we’d like them to maintain them.

  **Naming convention:** Gillespie shared that they created an area called "East Town" in their own branding of the east side in the 1600 to 2200 block. The naming is consistent with Old Town and REO Town.

  **Lighting:** Washington shared lighting needs to be improved around bus areas because people especially women don’t feel safe. There is a need to coordinate this with CATA. Kilpatrick suggested coming up with a plan regarding lighting to figure out what makes sense. Discussion around this involved BWL. BWL is going to have to look at additional fixtures, they don’t want to have 20 or 30 to maintain. The lights with speakers are very expensive. Not a good cost for the city to assume.
• **Art/Placemaking Projects**
The art/placemaking projects in the Plan are mostly events, festivals with projects and partners who (REO Town was an example used) are involved in public/private partnerships.

• **Façade Improvements**
Baumer shared that the dollars set aside for facades is miniscule. There are ordinances for private enterprise that are not being enforced, dollars could be placed for commercial code enforcement. Board expressed about the signs falling apart/waving in the area to which Washington said that council investigated this and now the City has a corridor enforcement person on board to address issues like these. She committed to talking to Brian McGrain, today.

Gillespie suggested keeping branding in mind. There are some initial items for branding that Nelson and Mughal pointed out in the appendices.

**Part-time Coordinator**
Nelson suggested that there should be some way to get funds to hire a part-time person to coordinate and advance elements of the plan. The coordinator could be a bridge, could write grants to fund their position.

**Engagement Strategy Subcommittee**
Nelson expressed to have a subcommittee to engage for support around the plan.

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Nelson moved to have the engagement subcommittee do outreach to gain support, led by Nelson and Barr and Lum will join as members. Motion seconded by Barr.

**YEAS:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**Nays:**

**Other Business & Public Comment** None.

**Adjournment** There being no further business, Lum declared the MACIA meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Jonathan Lum, Chair
Michigan Avenue Corridor Improvement Authority

---

3