



**B. 2005-06 Audit Review.** A Draft of the July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 Audit performed by Plante & Moran was reviewed. There is an error in the projected bond payments on Page 6 that will be corrected to reflect the actual bond payment schedule. The Audit as corrected was accepted for the record.

Gilbert/Lazar m/s/p

**C. Review of Ball/Water/Exchange Master Plan.** The 1998 reconstruction and improvement plan for the Ball/Water Exchange Lot Plan was reviewed with the following change: Install a wrought iron fence at 42" height and place decorative columns at the end points. The estimated cost for the upgrade is \$200,000 to \$250,000. With the recommended changes on the fence/wall concept, City staff will calculate a budget. This budget will be compared to the lot needs at Ball/Mason where the asphalt has severely deteriorated in the lot and adjoining alley. Also in the budget mix is the projected \$3,000 plan for the N Park Street lot that must accommodate both immediate property owner needs and regional needs. At the February DDA meeting the relative merits of each of the lots will be discussed together with a recommended time line for the work. The cost estimates and other factors will help decide.

**D. Entertainment District.** To keep the subject on the agenda, an 18-minute video of Ann Arbor was shown where the activity in the sidewalks of just two key blocks creates the lasting image for this 60-block downtown.

#### **E. Reports.**

**1) Retail Recruitment/Retention.** An Avon retail store is moving into the vacant spot where Winers and Espresso Yourself were located (N. Washington Street). The Bake Shop is moving from N. Park Street to the vacant spot next to Howe's Hallmark on N. Washington Street. There is a new infant and toddlers store at the Hungry Howie's plaza on E. Main Street. A consignment shop for gifts has located next to the Bookshelf on West Exchange Street. Some high quality retail locations remain vacant on West Exchange Street.

**2) Loop Trail Status.** The engineering plans are complete enough to begin the trail installation for the west 2,600 feet of this 3,300 trail. The weather may hold up the work until spring. In the spring the DDA will take a field trip to the project as its agenda item for April or May.

The Council adopted the boundary amendment for the river frontage all the way to the Oakwood Bridge.

**3) Armory Development.** The City Council will not advance the funds for the DDA acquisition of the Armory without an established buyer and developer. In its place the City will offer the tax exemptions, tax credits, loans and infrastructure support that it has on other projects when it was not the interceding property owner. The City will pass on the opportunity to have the building purchased for it from the Block Grant program, because that program has the job creation requirement and payback provisions similar to the hotel situation that has yet to be resolved. There is still no word on the bikeway easement.

**4. Old Hotel Site.** City Council still awaits a revised offer from Fifth Third Bank. At its December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting the Council hopes to see an offer; but in lieu of that start the process of acquiring the services of a commercial broker. Parking on the site was discussed and it was noted that it is temporary and not officially sanctioned or enforced for now.

**5) Focus Owosso Activity.** A full slate of holiday events is underway with top notch organizational assistance from Dave Gapinski. Late night is this Friday. There will be customer appreciation shopping days with prizes and shopping spree drawings. The reindeer and wagon

rides continue through the next few weekends. On January 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a business appreciation breakfast at the Comstock Inn with a new promotional presentation and a viewing of the Ann Arbor video.

**6. Security Camera at Footbridge.** Hathaway will meet this Friday with a representative from the Shiawassee Regional Educational Service District to obtain a system design and quotation for a security camera overlooking the footbridge area.

**7. River Walkway Design Committee.** Five of the eight persons invited to the Walkway Design Committee have responded to a request to serve, so that will have to do and a meeting will be scheduled soon.

**8. January Meeting.** If a meeting is held it will be a special meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> 15 minutes prior to the Business Appreciation Breakfast.

**9. Meeting Time.** To meet the work schedule demands of two members, the meeting time was moved to 7:30 a.m.

Hankerd/Robertson m/s/p

**Citizen/Member Comments.** Bill Gilbert mentioned the need to paint the bollards, pipes and Consumer's Transformer box at the exit from the Farmer's Market lot. Hathaway stated that the work will be completed before next year's Curwood Festival.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Philip B. Hathaway, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive

Director