

MINUTES FROM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 7, 2017

Present: Kjell Erlandsson; Fran Martin, Bill Streeter, Dave Gobis, Marla Wishau, Bob Bradley

Excused: Lee Wishau

Also Present:

Tony Bunkleman, Village of Caledonia Engineer

Robert Elkin, P.E., DOT Planning Supervisor Corridors/Access/Permitting;

Andrew Levy, AICP, DOT Urban and Regional Planner Supervisor SE Region;

Martha Hutsick for the Douglas Avenue Business District;

Tim Schneider, DC, Caledonia Chiropractic - 5401 Douglas Ave. 262-681-8829;

Gertie Fusko – MGA Wealth Management – 5402 Douglas Ave. 262-898-1694;

Rebecca Sattler, Accountant, Lighthouse Accounting & Tax Services – 5402 Douglas Ave. 262-898-5750;

Elizabeth Gorichanaz, Director of Client Relations & Educational Events, MGA Wealth Management – 5402 Douglas Ave. 262-898-1694;

Dr. Darwin Chentnik, Doctor of Optometry, Dr Darwin Eye Care – 5401 Douglas Ave Suite B. 262-752-0050;

Chris Chentnik, son;

Akil Ajmeri, Owner, Ayra's – 7100 Douglas Ave. 262-681-7950 and Co-Owner, Mulligans/Buddies, 6633 Douglas;

James Ladwig, Co-Owner, Mulligans/Buddies, 6633 Douglas Ave. 262-681-6464.

1. Meeting was called to order by Fran Martin at 5:30 p.m. at the East Side Community Center.
2. Public Comments RE: Issues local businesses are having with the curbed median that runs from the break in front of Aurora Health Center north to the signalized intersection at Douglas Avenue and Middle Road.
 - a. Dr. Tim Schneider sited safety concerns as well as the median being a hindrance to his clients
 - b. Elizabeth Gorichanaz stated between January and April their business has hundreds of clients who bring in their taxes. They have voiced safety concerns with getting to and from the business, and clients have told them of close calls they experienced.
 - c. Gertie Fusko agreed with Elizabeth Gorichanaz, stating safety concerns especially in the winter months with the increased traffic volume in and out of the business estimated at 1200 vehicles making 2 trips during tax season.
 - d. Rebecca Sattler was of the same opinion of both Elizabeth Gorichanaz and Gertie Fusko.
 - e. Dr Darwin was particularly concerned when he was going to work and needed to turn from the southbound lane at the median break in front of Aurora Health Care into the northbound lane, and then make the left hand turn into his business. The median break does not allow for automobiles to pull out of traffic, so there are major concerns of being hit from behind by 45 mph traffic. Also, with patients leaving Aurora, there are two vehicles looking to use one median break that is not made for two vehicles. Also, making a U-turn is difficult with traffic leaving Aurora looking to cross the northbound land lane into the southbound lane (This median is only 15 feet wide). The Dr. is also concerned for his patients safety coming and leaving his business.
 - f. Marla Wishau stated as a patient leaving Caledonia Chiropractic, then wanting to go south to the grocery store, she has to drive up to the signalized intersection of Douglas Ave. and Middle Road, go onto Middle and drive into the Moose Lodge parking lot to turn around. Other people go even further north to the Holy Cross Cemetery to turn around and backtrack. Overall, this is probably ½ miles + out of the way. There was a no U-turn at the signalized intersection which has since been removed, but this is a difficult place to make a U turn as the left lane is a thru lane in a 45 mph zone. With all these options, there are safety concerns.
3. The DOT responded: Robert Elkin was unaware of this median concern. He said that he would like to take all the letters from the businesses that were sent to CDA several months ago voicing concerns about the median, and the concerns voiced at this meeting to the Safety Engineer. The Safety Engineer would be asked to do a Safety Audit of the area. He stated there are also funds in the Safety division that might be available depending on what the Safety Audit found. He said the DOT would need to determine a potential solution.

Robert Elkin said the Safety Engineer will contact Fran Martin and the CDA regarding a plan for the study and review. They will look for a result that can be implemented fairly quickly. The Safety Engineer will observe the

situation along with looking at what was said at the meeting and the other correspondence as well as meeting with the local businesses who are concerned.

Dave Gobis asked of future plans for Douglas Avenue, particularly from where the two lanes end to the County Line. Robert Elkin said there were no plans in the next 6 years for other than an overlay to existing pavement. Cycle traffic counts were 17,000 vehicles per day, which is a volume that 2 lanes can handle. Plans that were being considered in prior years for expansion have been shelved due to no support for a round-about, difficulty acquiring necessary ROW. There is not a Lake Arterial in the plans at this time either.

Dave Gobis asked about north of 6 Mile Road traffic counts and Robert Elkin suggested we use the website that shows all statewide traffic counts. Dave Gobis also asked if the planned asphalt overlay would make any improvements to Douglas Ave. Tony Bunkleman stated that there were some small intersection improvements, for line of sight, turn lanes, and curb returns having gentler angles.
we define the objectives for CDA.

4. Tony Bunkleman will be in touch with Fran and the Safety Engineer, to stay involved with any possible solution to the median issue
5. Meeting adjourned 6:00 p.m. Motion made by William Streeter. Seconded by Kjell Erlandsson. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Marla Wishau