

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Borset, Lynn](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Frank Wilhelme](#)
Subject: RE: Reply: CoC applicants
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:33:10 PM

Thank you for your follow-up message Lynn. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I met on Sunday to develop a shared list of recommendations and to address issues such as the ones you have raised. We recognize that there are differing community and Council views on whose applications should be considered for this initial set of appointments. We also discussed what our goals are with this group. Despite our differences, we have a shared goal of successfully realizing the vision laid out in our Charter for this space. We have a shared goal of having this group comprised of community members representing a wide set of skills, perspectives, professions, and ages. Our goal is to have to buy-in on the recommendations the Council of the Commons brings forward. CM Hayner and I have additional meetings with staff and the attorneys office to discuss some questions and we hope to submit to the agenda a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday. While you may not personally agree with every recommendation, I hope you will support our overarching goals and work with us to achieve them. This space has been the focus of too much community division, we have an opportunity to move forward.

Thank you,

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Lynn Borset [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:24 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Frank Wilhelme [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Reply: CoC applicants

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

It seems I forgot to say in the message below that I would appreciate a reply. I am interested in your thoughts, and what steps will be taken to move the CoC nomination process forward. I look forward to hearing from you, or the others copied here.

Thank you,
Lynn Borset

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 5:23 PM Lynn Borset [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks for your prompt reply Erica,

Given that several of your assumptions proved to be untrue, I hope that you will rethink your nominees for the Council of the Commons.

The City announcement that I received about the application process *did* have the December 11 deadline in it. I intended to apply but I missed the deadline; that may well have been true for other applicants. CM Radina said that he encouraged Mr. Zempke to apply, so he had inside information.

To change the application deadline after-the-fact to a date that has already passed is inappropriate and, in my view, unacceptable. Only if the deadline were extended to a future date would it be appropriate, and only if there were a legitimate reason.

Since this nomination process is already behind schedule, and there is a reasonable pool of applicants who met the deadline, it should move forward as planned. To do otherwise is to change the rules in the middle of the game, which is not ethical.

I sincerely hope that you will withdraw Mr. Zempke's name from your nomination list, and will work with CM Hayner to propose a list of mutually agreed upon nominees who represent the best interests of the Center of the City Commons.

I can appreciate that this is a learning process, and that you are learning.

Best regards,

Lynn Borset

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 8:56 AM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thanks for the message Lynn. Yes, the deadline extension and extension regarding making appointments was discussed in December. It was my understanding based on Mr. Crawford's comments that it was not necessary to amend the resolved clause. Lesson learned on that issue. I don't believe the City's website ever had info about the deadline for applying to the Commons. I would say this extension was suggested not to benefit any one applicant, but rather because there was no reason not to continue accepting applications since CM Hayner and I had not reviewed the applications jointly. I did make the assumption that word had gotten out to the Library Green Conservancy because Mr. Haber encouraged another applicant to apply and urged me to consider that application. Again, I am learning about making any assumptions in this new position.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 10:48 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Frank Wilhelme <[REDACTED]>

Subject: CoC applicants

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Erica,

I just had the opportunity to watch the discussion at the 1/19/21 Council meeting about the Council of the Commons applicants.

It appears that an after-the-fact change in the deadline for applications is being contemplated, and that that deadline is past (12/31/20). Also, that this deadline change is to accommodate one applicant, and that applicant (Adam Zempke) is one of your recommendations.

Is this true?

As I understood the discussion, this deadline change was mentioned (discussed) at a December Council meeting.

Was there any public announcement of the deadline extension? Were the already appointed members of the Commons Council notified? Was the Library Green Conservancy notified? Was the website application available through December 31?

I will appreciate the courtesy of a reply. I may have other questions after I re-watch this portion of the Council meeting.

Thank you,
Lynn Borset

Cc: Jeff Hayner, Ali Ramlawi, Frank Wilhelme

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Tom Stulberg](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Crawford, Tom](#)
Subject: RE: Council of the Commons Committee
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:42:23 PM

Thank you for your message Tom. While CM Hayner and I have obviously had some publicly recognized difficulty coordinating around this issue, but please rest assured that we are both committed to success. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I met on Sunday to develop a shared list of recommendations. CM Hayner and I have additional meetings with staff and the attorneys office to discuss some questions and we hope to submit to the agenda a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday. I agree with your that this space has been the focus of too much community division, we have an opportunity to move forward. Thanks for sharing these resources and I'm excited for this Committee to begin meeting and start working on moving Taskforce recommendations forward.

All the best,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Tom Stulberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>
Subject: Council of the Commons Committee

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Erica and Jeff,

I am not involved directly in the Commons and the Library block, but I support that as a public space, and I support the citizens who have worked so hard for so long to make this a reality.

I have witnessed first-hand how a long process for something like this can become a success. I own a small mixed-use building in downtown Stratford, Ontario. I bought it in 2003 and have been an active member of the downtown business community there. We transformed a parking lot into a Market Square that everyone is proud of. It didn't happen overnight, but it can be done. I have seen it first-hand. I was there for the grand opening just a couple of years ago. I have a painting in my home from a Stratford artist that I was given in recognition for my

support. Even Bernie Sanders recently made an appearance there. (See the attached photo and enjoy the humor.)

We can make this a success here IF we have genuine support from our city and if we stop sabotaging the effort to move this forward. It is no secret that our mayor and CM Julie Grand did not want this, and likely do not want it to succeed. The majority of the citizens do though. The task force finished its work and its report a year ago. You two, and the other members of the Council of the Commons have a wonderful opportunity to do something lasting and wonderful for the city of Ann Arbor. Please do not succumb to the pressures of those who do not support what the citizens of Ann Arbor have asked for.

I want to add a perspective that seems overlooked by those who are still fighting a public commons at this location. The "fight" over this space has led to the investigation of multiple city-owned sites for development of affordable housing. We will surely have some of those sites developed for that purpose, including the Old Y-Lot across the street. We don't have to build anything on the Library Lot to recognize that the attention brought to the debate over this one location has led to great possibilities for other sites. Can we not come together over the recognition that we have potentially great outcomes from this "process" by having a public gathering space AND affordable housing on (other) city-owned sites?!

Here is a five-minute video that Stratford put together when we were still trying to plan that future. It includes examples of other communities that succeeded: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnFnf1ATdO8> Please note that these succeeded with the efforts of the citizens and the support of the cities.

Here is a link to what Stratford is currently doing during our social-distanced winter: <https://youtu.be/lg6dF5icxfs> This is but one of many programmed activities in Market Square.

I am adding our City Administrator by cc since I realize Tom will be on the committee too. I hope you all can find your way to making this something wonderful for our community.

Thank you,

Tom Stulberg

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Ralph McKee](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Crawford, Tom](#)
Subject: RE: COC
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:12:05 PM

Good afternoon Ralph,

As you appear to already know, CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I met on Sunday to develop a shared list of recommendations. While there are differing perspectives among these Council members, I would urge you to allow us to work together to put forward a shared set of recommendations. Despite our differences, we have a shared goal of successfully realizing the vision laid out in our Charter for this space. No one is trying to sabotage this process. We have a shared goal of having this group comprised of community members representing a wide set of skills, perspectives, professions, and ages. And we have a shared goal of having buy-in on the recommendations the Council of the Commons brings forward. CM Hayner and I have additional meetings with staff and the attorneys office to discuss some questions and we hope to submit to the agenda a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday. While you may not personally agree with every recommendation, I hope you will support our overarching goals and work with us to achieve them. This space has been the focus of too much community division, we have an opportunity to move forward. Moving forward is not always easy, but I trust we are up to the task.

I was struck when listening to President Biden's inaugural speech, how much it resonated. I found this section particularly moving, because if we are not willing to "lower the temperature" about small (though obviously meaningful) local issues, how does our democracy stand a chance?

*History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity.
We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbors.
We can treat each other with dignity and respect.
We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature.
For without unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury.
No progress, only exhausting outrage.
No nation, only a state of chaos.
This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward.
And, we must meet this moment as the United States of America.
If we do that, I guarantee you, we will not fail.*

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Ralph McKee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:30 AM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>

Subject: COC

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

I am writing re the COC nomination process. I understand that the meeting involving you and CMs Ramlawi, Hayner, and Grand did not result in an agreement and that the four of you will be meeting with Tom Crawford tomorrow in another attempt to resolve this. I am disappointed. I believe CMs Hayner and Ramlawi went to the Sunday meeting in good faith and prepared to negotiate reasonably. Further, CM Hayner has been an advocate of the COC mission from the beginning and his choices were very qualified people. Since CM Grand (and her allies and supporters) have often expressed opposition to the mission of the COC, she has refused more than once to provide even small amounts of financial support for it, and she has also often expressed her willingness to play political hardball, I can only assume she is doing so here. You can choose to be her pawn. But doing so will eviscerate any remaining trust many of your constituents have in you, particularly after your speech at the last council meeting about moving forward in good faith on the project given the will of the voters in 2018. And I'm betting that you haven't received a groundswell of support from constituents for your choices, and at this point I can't even be sure that the choices are really yours and not CM Grand's.

CM Grand is fond of saying "elections have consequences". So do decisions. Trust is important. So is losing it. Thanks for listening.

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Beth Collins](#); [Ramlawi, Ali](#)
Cc: [Crawford, Tom](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32:21 PM

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren't committed to earnestly working to advance the vision articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don't have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.
First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

Fast forward to the COC Task Force meetings which were held in 2019 in the Basement Conf Rm. I attended about 3 or 4 of them, and watched as the Core advocates tried to change the outcome of an election. These were Jule Grand appointed people (she admits often to hating the idea of a park there) who tried to advocate and whine about a park and how much they wanted a tall building in the space.

In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

It obviously was not as bad as the Capitol event, however there are many similarities.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/idea-of-tall-building-sparks-controversy-at-ann-arbor-central-park-forum.html>

Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:50:40 PM

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied “to kill the project” and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn’t call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be “our recommendations” these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren’t committed to earnestly working to advance the vision articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don’t have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

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Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

Fast forward to the COC Task Force meetings which were held in 2019 in the Basement Conf Rm. I attended about 3 or 4 of them, and watched as the Core advocates tried to change the outcome of an election. These were Jule Grand appointed people (she admits often to hating the idea of a park there) who tried to advocate and whine about a park and how much they wanted a tall building in the space.

In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

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Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:18:54 PM

Dear Mr. Hayner,

I am surprised to hear that. While I recognize that it was a tense meeting for much of the time, it was my understanding that you ultimately would be supporting adding a 4th member (Alice Ralph) and the three applicants I originally suggested. The 4th member was at your suggestion. In your words, our list of names was going to be presented to advance “unity” on this issue. If you are not supporting these recommendations, as you previously stated (barring any concerns from staff), please let me know. That is quite a surprise to me. I was under the impression we were walking into the meeting with staff tomorrow with a joint request. If you no longer wish to explore adding Alice Ralph as a 4th member, please let me know in advance of our scheduled meeting.

The idea of partnering with the Library is not a new one. CM Ramlawi was also a strong supporter of working with them.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied “to kill the project” and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn’t call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be “our recommendations” these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM

To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>

Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

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Thank you,
Erica

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From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>

Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

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In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

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And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Grand, Julie](#)
Subject: FW: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:24:02 PM

I'm confused, I know that it was a tense discussion at times, but I thought that last 20 minutes were productive and that we actually emerged with a shared plan of how to move forward and build some "unity", in Jeff's words, around this Committee.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied "to kill the project" and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn't call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be "our recommendations" these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

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Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

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Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM
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Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

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Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

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Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:43:24 PM

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I would hope you are still committed to the recommendations you agreed to on Sunday.

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Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

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Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
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Beth Collins

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:56:11 PM

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From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Mr. Hayner,

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To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

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Subject: COC Appointments

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From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:16:42 PM

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Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

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Subject: RE: COC Appointments

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Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

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From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Smith, Colin](#); [Grand, Julie](#)
Cc: [Borgsdorf, Stephen \(PAC\)](#); [Skylis, Rachel](#)
Subject: FW: One small way Ann Arbor can demonstrate Black Lives Matter
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:20:52 PM

Follow-up on the possibility of re-naming a park.

From: AP Z [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2021 2:07 PM
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>
Cc: Madhumita Lahiri <mlahiri@umich.edu>
Subject: One small way Ann Arbor can demonstrate Black Lives Matter

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Dear Mayor and Council,

As we approach Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we two citizens of Ann Arbor write with an appeal to the Council to take up a memorialization project.

Robert Hayden, who lived on Gardner Street for decades while working as a UM professor, is considered a major poet of the Civil Rights movement. He was also the first African American Poet Laureate of the United States. You can find more information about him at <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-hayden>.

There are no memorials to Hayden in Ann Arbor, and we believe that the city could take a strong public step in favor of Black Lives Matter by setting up a memorial to him. We have been in touch with his family, who still reside on Gardner, and they are interested in pursuing historic site status through the State, and would be glad to have the city's support in memorialization. We are hoping faculty and leadership at the University would also see the need for an Ann Arbor memorial at this time, and indeed believe that municipal, state, and university efforts could be combined.

Please inform us of any persons we can communicate with about how to get support for such a project. It does not seem to be either a Parks committee or a Public Arts committee task. Our note on this topic mistakenly sent to a city office holder last September went unanswered, and there is no standing office that deals with memorialization, other than benches and tables. We hope you agree the historic stature of Hayden exceeds that of a park bench.

We make no special claims to the legacy of Hayden, but are merely residents of Hayden's neighborhood who strongly feel his life and work mattered in extraordinary ways, and that it should be publicly marked and celebrated as part of the city's heritage. We hope you will assist in memorializing this nationally celebrated resident of our shared city and demonstrate Ann Arbor's commitment to affirming that Black lives matter.

Sincerely,

Andrea Zemgulys

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

and

Madhumita Lahiri

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:25:53 PM

I find it quite troubling that the 4 existing (2+2) appointees are considered zealots in need of balance. I do not agree upon these names, I think I made it quite clear that there is at least one person on your list that I don't think is an appropriate appointment, and the other applied after the deadline, and I don't support changing that deadline. "I will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline" should be clear enough to indicate my lack of support.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

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Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Mr. Hayner,

I also take offense with your claim that we threatened “to appoint people who had not even applied to kill the project”. That did not happen. We did state we did not actively recruit people to apply to the Committee who were known opponents of the projects – as could have been done if we were actually trying to sabotage this Committee. We did not as a new Council, seek to dissolve the Committee despite concerns about how the Committee was hastily developed. Instead, we have sought to work together to bring forward applicants that would complement the initial appointments and that we wanted to make sure all the applicants who were invested in realizing the resident’s desire for park/civic space on this publicly owned land. Your recommendation to look at solutions “outside the box” to restructure the Committee, and increase the number of at-large appointments, was agreed to by me and CM Grand.

I would hope you are still committed to the recommendations you agreed to on Sunday.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied “to kill the project” and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn’t call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be “our recommendations” these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and

the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner
Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren't committed to earnestly working to advance the vision articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don't have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

Fast forward to the COC Task Force meetings which were held in 2019 in the Basement Conf Rm. I attended about 3 or 4 of them, and watched as the Core advocates tried to change the outcome of an election. These were Jule Grand appointed people (she admits often to hating the idea of a park there) who tried to advocate and whine about a park and how much they wanted a tall building in the space.

In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

It obviously was not as bad as the Capitol event, however there are many similarities.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/idea-of-tall-building-sparks-controversy-at-ann-arbor-central-park-forum.html>

Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:09:15 PM

Okay, so you will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline.

Are you going to support the resolution to add a 4th at-large seat?

Ultimately, will you support the four nominations?

Are you planning on introducing a competing set of names?

I am trying to better understand where, if at all, we have jointly agreed upon recommendations.

Do we need to delay these appointments again?

Would you feel better if we extended the deadline until the end of February so there is greater public clarity about the end of the application period?

I have a number of concerns about the process of developing this and current seats on this Committee. Parks and Planning Commission have also expressed concerns. We could try to jointly develop a new Committee that addresses all of these concerns. Would that be a preferred path forward for you?

I do not think it serves our community well to not, at least, attempt to resolve these issues.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

I find it quite troubling that the 4 existing (2+2) appointees are considered zealots in need of balance. I do not agree upon these names, I think I made it quite clear that there is at least one person on your list that I don't think is an appropriate appointment, and the other applied after the deadline, and I don't support changing that deadline. "I will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline" should be clear enough to indicate my lack of support.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

I find it quite troubling that you view these community members as potential "obstructionist" members. I have informed you I have spoken to each of them and they are all committed to working

hard and productively on this Committee, none with a desire to sabotage. They are excited to bring their skills to the table, to learn, to give back to our community, and to build something delightful from a history that has been contentious in our community. If you doubt my word, I encourage you to call them. If you do not want to support the compromise agreement we arrived at after two hours of discussion on Sunday, please let me know. We are going to be serving on this Committee together and these community members deserve to know that their time is valued and they have the support of Council. I would like for us to put forward the agreed upon 4 names and encourage the Community to get excited about the work that will be done this coming year to move the vision forward. We have the power to fan the flames of disunity or unity—I hope you still believe in presenting a unified plan next Monday.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:56 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

The only reason I even suggested increasing the size of the board was your unwillingness to allow ANY appointments from my selected list! Out of 11 members, there are 4 (likely) pro-Charter seats, 2 mayoral appointment seats (PAC and Planning) 2 council seats and 3 at-large seats. When you and CM Grand use your oft-mentioned council majority to vote in the 3 at-large seats – all YOUR choices - that gives the majority of seats, 5-4, to potential obstructionist members. The mayor has said on occasions too numerous to recount that this project is a “non-starter”, is “doomed to fail” etc. Should I really expect his and your appointments to think any differently? The only reasons I suggested and agreed to an additional meeting with staff and legal is to see what sort of hoops we would have to jump through to get the “balance” CM Grand kept referring to – 5-5.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:43 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Mr. Hayner,

I also take offense with your claim that we threatened “to appoint people who had not even applied to kill the project”. That did not happen. We did state we did not actively recruit people to apply to the Committee who were known opponents of the projects – as could have been done if we were actually trying to sabotage this Committee. We did not as a new Council, seek to dissolve the

Committee despite concerns about how the Committee was hastily developed. Instead, we have sought to work together to bring forward applicants that would complement the initial appointments and that we wanted to make sure all the applicants who were invested in realizing the resident's desire for park/civic space on this publicly owned land. Your recommendation to look at solutions "outside the box" to restructure the Committee, and increase the number of at-large appointments, was agreed to by me and CM Grand.

I would hope you are still committed to the recommendations you agreed to on Sunday.

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Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied "to kill the project" and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn't call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be "our recommendations" these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM

To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>

Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren't committed to earnestly working to advance the vision

articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don't have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

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Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

Fast forward to the COC Task Force meetings which were held in 2019 in the Basement Conf Rm. I attended about 3 or 4 of them, and watched as the Core advocates tried to change the outcome of an election. These were Jule Grand appointed people (she admits often to hating the idea of a park there) who tried to advocate and whine about a park and how much they wanted a tall building in the space.

In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what

happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

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<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/idea-of-tall-building-sparks-controversy-at-ann-arbor-central-park-forum.html>

Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Borset, Lynn](#)
Cc: [Ramlawi, Ali](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Frank Wilhelme](#)
Subject: RE: Reply: CoC applicants
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:21:42 AM

Good morning Lynn:

I'm sorry you feel this is a "canned" reply, I wrote it for you. I believe your question about the deadline has been answered in thread below.

Enjoy this beautiful day,

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Frank Wilhelme <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Reply: CoC applicants

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Erica,

I appreciate your note, but I can tell it is a "canned" reply. It does not answer my comment, so is not very reassuring.

Will the Dec. 11th application deadline be honored? That is, only applicants who applied by the deadline be nominated? (In fact, the City website still lists Dec. 1st as the application deadline for this committee.)

I would like to trust you and this process, but your comment about staff and attorney meetings do not engender my trust.

You are correct that "this has been the focus of too much community division," and that is exactly why it is **so important** to be very open and clear about the process, honoring the steps and deadlines laid out.

I do hope this is an opportunity to put contention aside and move forward, and I look forward to your reply.

Thank you,

Lynn

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 1:33 PM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thank you for your follow-up message Lynn. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I met on Sunday to develop a shared list of recommendations and to address issues such as the ones you have raised. We recognize that there are differing community and Council views on whose applications should be considered for this initial set of appointments. We also discussed what our goals are with this group. Despite our differences, we have a shared goal of successfully realizing the vision laid out in our Charter for this space. We have a shared goal of having this group comprised of community members representing a wide set of skills, perspectives, professions, and ages. Our goal is to have to buy-in on the recommendations the Council of the Commons brings forward. CM Hayner and I have additional meetings with staff and the attorneys office to discuss some questions and we hope to submit to the agenda a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday. While you may not personally agree with every recommendation, I hope you will support our overarching goals and work with us to achieve them. This space has been the focus of too much community division, we have an opportunity to move forward.

Thank you,

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:24 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Frank Wilhelme <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Reply: CoC applicants

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Erica,

It seems I forgot to say in the message below that I would appreciate a reply. I am interested in your thoughts, and what steps will be taken to move the CoC nomination process forward. I look forward to hearing from you, or the others copied here.

Thank you,
Lynn Borset

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 5:23 PM Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks for your prompt reply Erica,

Given that several of your assumptions proved to be untrue, I hope that you will rethink your nominees for the Council of the Commons.

The City announcement that I received about the application process *did* have the December 11 deadline in it. I intended to apply but I missed the deadline; that may well have been true for other applicants. CM Radina said that he encouraged Mr. Zempke to apply, so he had inside information.

To change the application deadline after-the-fact to a date that has already passed is inappropriate and, in my view, unacceptable. Only if the deadline were extended to a future date would it be appropriate, and only if there were a legitimate reason.

Since this nomination process is already behind schedule, and there is a reasonable pool of applicants who met the deadline, it should move forward as planned. To do otherwise is to change the rules in the middle of the game, which is not ethical.

I sincerely hope that you will withdraw Mr. Zempke's name from your nomination list, and will work with CM Hayner to propose a list of mutually agreed upon nominees who represent the best interests of the Center of the City Commons.

I can appreciate that this is a learning process, and that you are learning.
Best regards,
Lynn Borset

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 8:56 AM Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org> wrote:

Thanks for the message Lynn. Yes, the deadline extension and extension regarding making appointments was discussed in December. It was my understanding based on Mr. Crawford's comments that it was not necessary to amend the resolved clause. Lesson learned on that issue. I don't believe the City's website ever had info about the deadline for applying to the Commons. I would say this extension was suggested not to benefit any one applicant, but rather because there was no reason not to continue accepting applications since CM Hayner and I had not reviewed the applications jointly. I did make the assumption that word had gotten out to the Library Green Conservancy because Mr. Haber encouraged another applicant to apply and urged me to consider that application. Again, I am learning about making any assumptions in this new position.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Lynn Borset <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2021 10:48 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Cc: Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Frank Wilhelme <[REDACTED]>
Subject: CoC applicants

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello Erica,

I just had the opportunity to watch the discussion at the 1/19/21 Council meeting about the Council of the Commons applicants.

It appears that an after-the-fact change in the deadline for applications is being contemplated,

and that that deadline is past (12/31/20). Also, that this deadline change is to accommodate one applicant, and that applicant (Adam Zempke) is one of your recommendations.

Is this true?

As I understood the discussion, this deadline change was mentioned (discussed) at a December Council meeting.

Was there any public announcement of the deadline extension? Were the already appointed members of the Commons Council notified? Was the Library Green Conservancy notified? Was the website application available through December 31?

I will appreciate the courtesy of a reply. I may have other questions after I re-watch this portion of the Council meeting.

Thank you,
Lynn Borset

Cc: Jeff Hayner, Ali Ramlawi, Frank Wilhelme

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Stauffer, Stefanie](#); [*City Council Members \(All\)](#)
Subject: RE: Public Market Advisory Commission January Formal Minutes report
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:11:29 PM

Thank you for sharing and I'm sorry to read you were assaulted by anti-masker. I hope you're okay.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
<http://www.a2gov.org/>

-----Original Message-----

From: Stauffer, Stefanie <SStauffer@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 12:33 PM
To: [*City Council Members \(All\)](#) <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>
Subject: Public Market Advisory Commission January Formal Minutes report

A Legistar report is attached. Please review. Thank you,

-Stefanie

Stefanie T. Stauffer, PhD | Farmers Market Manager | City of Ann Arbor | 734.794.6000 ext. 42575 Market Hours | May-December Saturday & Wednesday 7am-3pm | January-April Saturday 8am-3pm a2gov.org/market | facebook.com/a2market | instagram.com/a2market | twitter.com/a2market "Together, we enrich life by cultivating exceptional experiences."

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Cc: [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:14:12 PM

I'm following-up on our earlier conversation and wish to revisit the questions I posed to you yesterday (see below). To recap, we learned from staff this afternoon:

- It is entirely up to the discretion of Council whether we consider all the applications we received, or a portion of those applications, when making appointments. Indeed, it was unusual to have within the resolution an end date for accepting applications, as they are typically accepted on a rolling basis. We do not need to amend the resolution to consider applications received through year's end.
- We can chose to increase the number of at-large appointments or we can remain at the same number, it's again "up to Council". This is Council's resolution, Council can do as it wishes. It's really a matter of policy preferences. We should not amend the past resolution if we wish to do this, but *I think he said* introduce a new resolution which will supersede the last one. Was that your understanding as well?
- Staff would strongly recommend passing a new resolution that more clearly clarifies the role of the board prior to the first meeting of this new group. Based on past practice, this would already have been done.

On Sunday, I thought we had reached a solution of recommending 4 at-large appointments. However, you have recently voiced concerns with your recommendation to increase the number of at-large seats. I would like to submit our jointly recommended names to the clerk on Friday. Will you be supporting these 4 appointments? If so, I (or we) can work with Mr. Frost to develop the necessary new resolution that desire for 4 at-large appointments.

If you are no longer comfortable supporting the change to allow for 4 at-large appointments, then I feel a bit of loss as how to proceed to reach any agreement. The alternative, I guess, is that I submit again my three initial recommendations and you submit your recommendations. I would still like to do this on Friday so Council has the opportunity to review COC applications on their own over the weekend, since we're putting them in a tough place by not putting forth a joint recommendation.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed. I've copied the Mayor so he knows that we may have reached an impasse.

Again, let me state my desire to work with you to create a strong, effective, and successful Council of the Commons.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Briggs, Erica
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:09 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Okay, so you will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline.
Are you going to support the resolution to add a 4th at-large seat?
Ultimately, will you support the four nominations?
Are you planning on introducing a competing set of names?

I am trying to better understand where, if at all, we have jointly agreed upon recommendations.
Do we need to delay these appointments again?
Would you feel better if we extended the deadline until the end of February so there is greater public clarity about the end of the application period?

I have a number of concerns about the process of developing this and current seats on this Committee. Parks and Planning Commission have also expressed concerns. We could try to jointly develop a new Committee that addresses all of these concerns. Would that be a preferred path forward for you?

I do not think it serves our community well to not, at least, attempt to resolve these issues.

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To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

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To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

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From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:56 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

The only reason I even suggested increasing the size of the board was your unwillingness to allow ANY appointments from my selected list! Out of 11 members, there are 4 (likely) pro-Charter seats, 2 mayoral appointment seats (PAC and Planning) 2 council seats and 3 at-large seats. When you and CM Grand use your oft-mentioned council majority to vote in the 3 at-large seats – all YOUR choices - that gives the majority of seats, 5-4, to potential obstructionist members. The mayor has said on occasions too numerous to recount that this project is a “non-starter”, is “doomed to fail” etc. Should I really expect his and your appointments to think any differently? The only reasons I suggested and agreed to an additional meeting with staff and legal is to see what sort of hoops we would have to jump through to get the “balance” CM Grand kept referring to – 5-5.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:43 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Mr. Hayner,

I also take offense with your claim that we threatened “to appoint people who had not even applied to kill the project”. That did not happen. We did state we did not actively recruit people to apply to the Committee who were known opponents of the projects – as could have been done if we were actually trying to sabotage this Committee. We did not as a new Council, seek to dissolve the Committee despite concerns about how the Committee was hastily developed. Instead, we have sought to work together to bring forward applicants that would complement the initial appointments and that we wanted to make sure all the applicants who were invested in realizing the resident’s desire for park/civic space on this publicly owned land. Your recommendation to look at solutions “outside the box” to restructure the Committee, and increase the number of at-large appointments, was agreed to by me and CM Grand.

I would hope you are still committed to the recommendations you agreed to on Sunday.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied “to kill the project” and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn’t call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be “our recommendations” these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM

To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>

Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren't committed to earnestly working to advance the vision articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don't have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

Fast forward to the COC Task Force meetings which were held in 2019 in the Basement Conf Rm. I attended about 3 or 4 of them, and watched as the Core advocates tried to change the outcome of an election. These were Jule Grand appointed people (she admits often to hating the idea of a park

there) who tried to advocate and whine about a park and how much they wanted a tall building in the space.

In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

It obviously was not as bad as the Capitol event, however there are many similarities.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/idea-of-tall-building-sparks-controversy-at-ann-arbor-central-park-forum.html>

Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: COC Appointments
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 7:50:15 PM

While I'm still not certain this is the best procedure, my understanding was indeed that a new resolution should be brought with the following purposes:

To extend the date that applications were allowed,
To increase the number of at-large seats by one,
To describe in more detail the function of the Council of the Commons.

To these points:

I know staff says it is our discretion to choose candidates from before or after the published deadline, but it feels wrong to not formalize that, even after-the-fact. At the very least, a new resolution should speak to this in a whereas clause.

To be clear, these are not "jointly recommended names". I still have concerns about 2 of the names, for reasons I explained several times. Expanding the number of at-large seats is a last gasp measure to allow one of the at-large appointments to be from my list. I suppose, given the tenor of the Sunday meeting, I should be thankful for this expansion. If we do so, staff should review the 4 potential applicants to determine residency requirements. I assume that this would be done for any names brought forward, as we often are asked to confirm a nomination with 7 votes for charter compliance.

As to the function of this CoC, I don't yet have any language to suggest, I plan on digging up some of the other resolutions like Transportation Commission for examples after my classes tonight. Then I can maybe join them with the staff suggestions and the suggestions from the Task Force report and pass that along for review.

Again, calling this a joint recommendation may be the proper thing to do politically, but it certainly is not accurate. I only recommend my one selection, and one of your 3 selections. That's just the way it is. I'm not going to pretend otherwise, but I will give any resolution put forward due consideration and an up or down vote as I would any other matter before council.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Cc: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: COC Appointments

I'm following-up on our earlier conversation and wish to revisit the questions I posed to you yesterday (see below). To recap, we learned from staff this afternoon:

- It is entirely up to the discretion of Council whether we consider all the applications we received, or a portion of those applications, when making appointments. Indeed, it was unusual to have within the resolution an end date for accepting applications, as they are typically accepted on a rolling basis. We do not need to amend the resolution to consider applications received through year's end.
- We can choose to increase the number of at-large appointments or we can remain at the same number, it's again "up to Council". This is Council's resolution, Council can do as it wishes. It's really a matter of policy preferences. We should not amend the past resolution if we wish to do this, but *I think he said* introduce a new resolution which will supersede the last one. Was that your understanding as well?
- Staff would strongly recommend passing a new resolution that more clearly clarifies the role of the board prior to the first meeting of this new group. Based on past practice, this would already have been done.

On Sunday, I thought we had reached a solution of recommending 4 at-large appointments. However, you have recently voiced concerns with your recommendation to increase the number of at-large seats. I would like to submit our jointly recommended names to the clerk on Friday. Will you be supporting these 4 appointments? If so, I (or we) can work with Mr. Frost to develop the necessary new resolution that desire for 4 at-large appointments.

If you are no longer comfortable supporting the change to allow for 4 at-large appointments, then I feel a bit of loss as how to proceed to reach any agreement. The alternative, I guess, is that I submit again my three initial recommendations and you submit your recommendations. I would still like to do this on Friday so Council has the opportunity to review COC applications on their own over the weekend, since we're putting them in a tough place by not putting forth a joint recommendation.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed. I've copied the Mayor so he knows that we may have reached an impasse.

Again, let me state my desire to work with you to create a strong, effective, and successful Council of the Commons.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Briggs, Erica

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:09 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Okay, so you will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline.

Are you going to support the resolution to add a 4th at-large seat?

Ultimately, will you support the four nominations?

Are you planning on introducing a competing set of names?

I am trying to better understand where, if at all, we have jointly agreed upon recommendations.

Do we need to delay these appointments again?

Would you feel better if we extended the deadline until the end of February so there is greater public clarity about the end of the application period?

I have a number of concerns about the process of developing this and current seats on this Committee. Parks and Planning Commission have also expressed concerns. We could try to jointly develop a new Committee that addresses all of these concerns. Would that be a preferred path forward for you?

I do not think it serves our community well to not, at least, attempt to resolve these issues.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:26 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

I find it quite troubling that the 4 existing (2+2) appointees are considered zealots in need of balance. I do not agree upon these names, I think I made it quite clear that there is at least one person on your list that I don't think is an appropriate appointment, and the other applied after the deadline, and I don't support changing that deadline. "I will not co-sponsor the resolution to change the deadline" should be clear enough to indicate my lack of support.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:17 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

I find it quite troubling that you view these community members as potential "obstructionist" members. I have informed you I have spoken to each of them and they are all committed to working

hard and productively on this Committee, none with a desire to sabotage. They are excited to bring their skills to the table, to learn, to give back to our community, and to build something delightful from a history that has been contentious in our community. If you doubt my word, I encourage you to call them. If you do not want to support the compromise agreement we arrived at after two hours of discussion on Sunday, please let me know. We are going to be serving on this Committee together and these community members deserve to know that their time is valued and they have the support of Council. I would like for us to put forward the agreed upon 4 names and encourage the Community to get excited about the work that will be done this coming year to move the vision forward. We have the power to fan the flames of disunity or unity—I hope you still believe in presenting a unified plan next Monday.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:56 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

The only reason I even suggested increasing the size of the board was your unwillingness to allow ANY appointments from my selected list! Out of 11 members, there are 4 (likely) pro-Charter seats, 2 mayoral appointment seats (PAC and Planning) 2 council seats and 3 at-large seats. When you and CM Grand use your oft-mentioned council majority to vote in the 3 at-large seats – all YOUR choices - that gives the majority of seats, 5-4, to potential obstructionist members. The mayor has said on occasions too numerous to recount that this project is a “non-starter”, is “doomed to fail” etc. Should I really expect his and your appointments to think any differently? The only reasons I suggested and agreed to an additional meeting with staff and legal is to see what sort of hoops we would have to jump through to get the “balance” CM Grand kept referring to – 5-5.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:43 PM

To: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Mr. Hayner,

I also take offense with your claim that we threatened “to appoint people who had not even applied to kill the project”. That did not happen. We did state we did not actively recruit people to apply to the Committee who were known opponents of the projects – as could have been done if we were actually trying to sabotage this Committee. We did not as a new Council, seek to dissolve the

Committee despite concerns about how the Committee was hastily developed. Instead, we have sought to work together to bring forward applicants that would complement the initial appointments and that we wanted to make sure all the applicants who were invested in realizing the resident's desire for park/civic space on this publicly owned land. Your recommendation to look at solutions "outside the box" to restructure the Committee, and increase the number of at-large appointments, was agreed to by me and CM Grand.

I would hope you are still committed to the recommendations you agreed to on Sunday.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:51 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Dear Ms. Briggs,

That meeting was only productive if I was looking to get bossed around. Having CM Grand and you stonewall any appointment I wanted, threaten to appoint people who had not even applied "to kill the project" and generally reveal your desire to aid the Library Board in usurping this space for their use was not surprising, but I wouldn't call it productive. I get that you have to keep a political face forward to your Ward constituents. Please note that these will not be "our recommendations" these will be CM Grand and your recommendations, and you will have to restructure the rules and the makeup of the Council of the Commons to do so.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hayner

Ward 1 City Council

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 2:32 PM

To: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]> Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>

Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: COC Appointments

Good afternoon Beth,

Thanks for your message and let me assure you no one is trying to sabotage this process or bring people to the Committee who aren't committed to earnestly working to advance the vision

articulated in the Charter. CM Hayner, Ramlawi, and Grand and I had a productive meeting this week and CM Hayner and I are looking forward to hopefully submitting a jointly agreed upon set of names this Friday to the Council agenda. We know that this space has been a point of contention in the community and among Council members. However, past policy disputes or even current personal beliefs about the best use for this space, don't have to dictate our path forward. Our Charter clearly states how the public wants this public space to be used and now we have to figure out how to get there with limited governmental resources. As such, it is very important that we have a Committee working on this issue that has the skills to move us forward. We have the vision, now we need a real plan. I ask for your patience as CM Hayner and I continue to work together to bring forth our recommendations.

Thank you,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: Beth Collins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 9:49 AM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Ramlawi, Ali <ARamlawi@a2gov.org>
Cc: Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>
Subject: COC Appointments

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Dear Erica and Ali,
I hope you and your families are doing well.

As my ward 5 reps, I feel I must speak up about the COC Commons appointments and what is currently going on.

First of all, I was not involved in the Prop A or Core advocacies, I was busy trying to work with a bad potential neighbor (Lockwood) for 2 1/2 years.

I was pleased at the thought of an urban Central Park downtown, so I voted for it. The majority of residents voted for it.

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In fact, since Jan 6th happened at the Capitol (48% vs 52% vote results) and then this debacle about the at large resident members was on our city council agenda, I thought how it reminded me of what

happened at the Spark COC Charette type meeting. A "mob" of Core Spaces advocates came and yelled that they were 48% of the voters and they wanted a building and housing on the site. I was shocked and still am.

It obviously was not as bad as the Capitol event, however there are many similarities.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/2020/01/idea-of-tall-building-sparks-controversy-at-ann-arbor-central-park-forum.html>

Erica, I hope you are not trying to obstruct the will of the voters who want an urban park and commons like your colleagues Chris and Julie have publicly stated many times.

And nobody who was against Prop A should be on this list of residents you are choosing.....period. They will be obstructionists, like I saw on the COC Task Force.

Please do not set this up for failure and please let's all play nice together.....Why such divisiveness on Council?? It has been so sad and scary to watch.

Thank you for listening,

Beth Collins

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [P. L.](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: RE: Center of the City appointments
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:00:26 PM

Since you are in the midst of a FOIA on this issue as well, I anticipate you will get a fuller record of our communications (or lack thereof) on this issue.

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: P. L. <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 12:54 PM
To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
Subject: Center of the City appointments

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Briggs,

Your response to Eric Sturgis's inquiries concerning your assertions at a public meeting that CM Hayner had not responded to you as you two, allegedly, struggled and struggled to appoint three people to public service, was forwarded to me by a third party. Normally, I ignore all the forwarded materials I get concerning Council, but this is so clearly egregious, and your response to Eric is so clearly out of touch with the reality of what the FOIAed public records show you did, I can't help but urge you to remember that you owe the public the truth at all times.

First of all, you are not "on a commission," as you make these appointments, and so your explanation to Eric that the poor communication on your part was the result of what Council members do on commissions, is spurious. Second of all, you have been on City Council since November 2020 (90 days). In reality, you have not a shred of historical perspective concerning what Council members have done or did before you were elected.

That your Council colleague asks that communication concerning these appointments be via email is perfectly reasonable, and a welcome nod toward transparency., as the FOIAed public records demonstrate.

Unless you change course, Erica, it's going to be a long, brutal four years during which you are

going to be repeatedly shown by concerned residents as deceptive and duplicitous. You'll be lucky if no one posts these FOIAed records to Nextdoor along with a video of your claims made at the public meeting at which you blamed CM Hayner, instead of taking responsibility for your own failures.

You'll no doubt agree in light of the public records released, you owe your Ward 1 colleague, the media and the public, a complete explanation that is truthful. It needs to reflect your own failure to respond to your colleague's email for almost an entire week.

No answer is required.

Patricia Lesko

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: Fw: Council of the Commons
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:24:38 PM

From: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Council of the Commons

Eric,

As I wrote to you and as CM Briggs has clearly outlined, this FOIA is insufficient to understand the extent of her outreach, which began on December 13th. I will not try and make any guesses as to why you chose to limit it to this week.

This is the last time that I am going to ask you nicely to stop policing my behavior.

Julie

From: Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Subject: Council of the Commons

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Grand:

At the January 19th, 2021 City Council meeting at 3:09 you stated that you would let CM Briggs address who is not working with her or responding to emails, I am attaching FOIA 3086, and it is clear that CM Briggs did not respond to CM Hayner email, I am asking that you correct your statement, as what you said was simply not true, the email that was not responded to was CM Hayner's email from 1/13/2021 until 1/19/2021.

Thank you.

--

Eric A Sturgis
[REDACTED]

From: [Grand, Julie](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: Fw: Council of the Commons
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 6:07:10 PM

From: Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 5:51 PM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Cc: Postema, Stephen <SPostema@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>
Subject: Re: Council of the Commons

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Julie, since I guess we are on a first name basis, I would like to let you know that I do not appreciate the threat that you levied at the end of the email. I have let the City Attorney know and will be making a formal complaint. It is unfortunate that you cannot take constructive criticism. You are responsible for your behavior, and your actions.

Thank you,

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:24 PM Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org> wrote:

Eric,

As I wrote to you and as CM Briggs has clearly outlined, this FOIA is insufficient to understand the extent of her outreach, which began on December 13th. I will not try and make any guesses as to why you chose to limit it to this week.

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Julie

From: Eric Sturgis <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>
Subject: Council of the Commons

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Grand:

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you correct your statement, as what you said was simply not true, the email that was not responded to was CM Hayner's email from 1/13/2021 until 1/19/2021.

Thank you.

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

--

Eric A Sturgis

[REDACTED]

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Possible Draft Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:59:40 PM
Attachments: [Draft1 COC membership purpose resolution.docx](#)
[Draft Council of the Commons Purpose January 19 2021.docx](#)

Good evening Mr. Hayner,

Based on what Mr. Frost shared with us, I developed this possible draft resolution that is intended to be very simple—just clarifying membership (just the possible change to 4 at-large—please advise on your thoughts) and adding purpose (based on what Heather sent us).

Send me your thoughts by email or call. I'll be up late, but going for a walk now.

Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

TITLE

Resolution to Restate the Purpose and Membership of the Council of the Commons

..Memorandum

This resolution restates the purpose and membership of the Council of the Commons. The Council of the Commons was created on October 5, 2020 by resolution of the City Council (R-20-397). This resolution reaffirms Councils support for the development the Center of the City Commons, clarifies the purpose of this new Committee, and adds one new at-large member.

..Staff

Approved by:

..Body

Whereas, In December 2020 Ann Arbor City Council members asked for greater clarity around the purpose and terms of membership of the Council of the Commons;

RESOLVED, The purpose and membership of the Ann Arbor Council of Commons are restated as follows:

- (1) *Membership*. The commission shall have 12 members, 11 voting members, consisting of:
 - a. The City Administrator, or their designee (non-voting member);
 - b. Eleven voting members affirmed by City Council for two-year terms:
 - i. 4 citizens-at-large nominated by the Council of the Common City Council representatives;
 - ii. One Parks Advisory Commission recommended by PAC;
 - iii. One City Planning Commissioner recommended by Planning Commission;
 - iv. Two members of the Community Commons Initiating Committee;
 - v. Two members of the Library Green Conservancy; and
 - vi. Two members of the City Council.
- (2) *Purpose*. The Council of the Commons is an advisory body to City Council that will build upon the work of the Center of the City Task Force by providing written recommendations annually on such subjects as funding needs, an operations and maintenance model, and the role of the Council of the Commons.

Council of the Commons Purpose

The Council of the Commons is an advisory body to City Council that will build upon the work of the Center of the City Task Force by providing written recommendations on funding needs, an operations and maintenance model, and the role of the Council of the Commons going forward.

Questions to Consider when Developing Recommendations

1. Define funding needs
 - a. What is needed to design/engineer the space to allow for new amenities (the Task Force's public process helped identify desired amenities but there has not yet been a design developed to understand how desired amenities could be configured in the space and what is needed to maintain the integrity of the parking structure below)?
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3. Determine the role of the Council of the Commons going forward
 - a. Are there other issues related to the Center of the City that the Council of the Commons would be helpful in providing advisory recommendations to City Council?

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: Possible Draft Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:25:25 PM

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To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Possible Draft Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:49:32 PM

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On names, thinking we can let clerk handle that.

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Please advise on 4 or 3 at-large.

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To: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
Subject: Re: Possible Draft Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:14:09 PM

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From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#)
Subject: RE: Possible Draft Resolution
Date: Thursday, January 28, 2021 11:16:03 PM

I agree and have said that people should always be applying , I guess I am just thinking of how we explain it to the public at large. As to the 3 v. 4, if my only choice is 3 I get NO ONE, and 4 I get ONE PERSON I guess we should do 4. Better still would be 5, and you get 3 and I get 2, but again, that was shut down by our “mediator”. So I guess we need to do 4.

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From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Frost, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Seyfarth, Heather](#); [Crawford, Tom](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: Council of the Commons
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:39:35 AM
Attachments: [Draft_COC_membership_purpose_resolution.docx](#)
[Council of the Commons Purpose January 19 2021.docx](#)

Good morning Mr. Frost,

I believe that CM Hayner and I both are comfortable with the attached resolution that would provide greater clarity around purpose and membership. Thanks for sharing the energy commission resolution, that was a very helpful guide. Can you please review and edit for greater clarity? And if there are any important items we've missed, that you think should be in this resolution, please let us know early in the day. I've copied in Mr. Crawford and Ms. Seyfarth since they may also have some comments or thoughts on how it could be improved. Mr. Hayner and I have tried to keep it super simple, partially so we don't introduce new subjects where we might find disagreement. Once you provide us with a new and improved doc or give your okay on this one, I assume we pass this and any supplemental materials to Mr. Crawford for inclusion on Monday night's agenda?

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TITLE

Resolution to Restate the Purpose and Membership of the Council of the Commons

..Memorandum

This resolution restates the purpose and membership of the Council of the Commons. The Council of the Commons was created on October 5, 2020 by resolution of the City Council (R-20-397). This resolution reaffirms Councils support for the development the Center of the City Commons, clarifies the purpose of this new Committee, and adds one new at-large member.

..Staff

Approved by:

..Body

Whereas, In December 2020 Ann Arbor City Council members asked for greater clarity around the purpose and terms of membership of the Council of the Commons;

RESOLVED, The purpose and membership of the Ann Arbor Council of Commons are restated as follows:

- (1) *Membership*. The commission shall have 12 members, 11 voting members, consisting of:
 - a. The City Administrator, or their designee (non-voting member);
 - b. Eleven voting members affirmed by City Council for two-year terms:
 - i. 4 citizens-at-large nominated by the Council of the Common City Council representatives;
 - ii. One Parks Advisory Commission recommended by PAC;
 - iii. One City Planning Commissioner recommended by Planning Commission;
 - iv. Two members of the Community Commons Initiating Committee;
 - v. Two members of the Library Green Conservancy; and
 - vi. Two members of the City Council.
- (2) *Purpose*. The Council of the Commons is an advisory body to City Council that will build upon the work of the Center of the City Task Force by providing written recommendations annually on such subjects as funding needs, an operations and maintenance model, and the role of the Council of the Commons.

Council of the Commons Purpose

The Council of the Commons is an advisory body to City Council that will build upon the work of the Center of the City Task Force by providing written recommendations on funding needs, an operations and maintenance model, and the role of the Council of the Commons going forward.

Questions to Consider when Developing Recommendations

1. Define funding needs
 - a. What is needed to design/engineer the space to allow for new amenities (the Task Force's public process helped identify desired amenities but there has not yet been a design developed to understand how desired amenities could be configured in the space and what is needed to maintain the integrity of the parking structure below)?
 - b. What is needed for the capital investment of the new amenities (a detailed answer to this would be dependent upon an approved design for the space, but potentially a ballpark figure could be developed)?
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3. Determine the role of the Council of the Commons going forward
 - a. Are there other issues related to the Center of the City that the Council of the Commons would be helpful in providing advisory recommendations to City Council?

From: [Hayner, Jeff](#)
To: [Briggs, Erica](#); [Frost, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Seyfarth, Heather](#); [Crawford, Tom](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: RE: Council of the Commons
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:48:41 AM

All I would add is that we need to note the PAC and Planning Commission appointments also for council approval,
PAC – Stephan Borgsdorf
Planning - ? I watched the deliberations but there did not seem to be a decision, I thought I had received an email follow-up but cannot locate it, so does anyone know who was finally put forward?

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To: Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org>
Cc: Seyfarth, Heather <HSeyfarth@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>
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Cc: [Frost, Christopher](#); [Seyfarth, Heather](#); [Crawford, Tom](#); [Taylor, Christopher \(Mayor\)](#)
Subject: Re: Council of the Commons
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 8:22:05 AM

Thank you! I also searched for the PC recommendation and couldn't find it. Mr. Crawford perhaps you can remind us?

On Jan 29, 2021, at 7:48 AM, Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org> wrote:

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Thank you, these changes look good to me. I'll give CM Hayner a call to see if he's had a chance to review and hopefully we can get this finalized soon. I appreciate your quick turn around on this.

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Let me know if this is okay and I will add for Monday.

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City of Ann Arbor · 301 E. Huron St. · Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.794.6186 Direct | 734.794.6170 Office | cfrost@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

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Cc: [Seyfarth, Heather](#); [Crawford, Tom](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Higgins, Sara](#)
Subject: RE: Council of the Commons
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 2:26:19 PM

I chatted with CM Hayner, he's supportive of these changes as well.

The only question we have left is procedural. Does this resolution take the place of the what's on the agenda currently? Do we move to introduce it as a substitute? Do we need to let Ms. Beaudry know about who we're nominating? Basically, what next.

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Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:39 AM

To: Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org>

Cc: Seyfarth, Heather <HSeyfarth@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>

Subject: Council of the Commons

Good morning Mr. Frost,

I believe that CM Hayner and I both are comfortable with the attached resolution that would provide greater clarity around purpose and membership. Thanks for sharing the energy commission resolution, that was a very helpful guide. Can you please review and edit for greater clarity? And if there are any important items we've missed, that you think should be in this resolution, please let us know early in the day. I've copied in Mr. Crawford and Ms. Seyfarth since they may also have some comments or thoughts on how it could be improved. Mr. Hayner and I have tried to keep it super simple, partially so we don't introduce new subjects where we might find disagreement. Once you provide us with a new and improved doc or give your okay on this one, I assume we pass this and any supplemental materials to Mr. Crawford for inclusion on Monday night's ageana?

Thanks to Ms. Seyfarth for putting together the purpose document for us. I'm hoping we can place that document up on Legistar for greater public and Council clarity around purpose, as well as the Center of the City Task Force Final Report as a reference document.

The 4 individuals we are suggesting for the at-large positions are:

1. Adam Zemke
2. Camilla Lizundia
3. Jennifer Cornell
4. Alice Ralph

Thanks for your ongoing help with this,
Erica

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)

Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org

Cell: 734-355-3931

www.a2gov.org

From: [Briggs, Erica](#)
To: [Frost, Christopher](#)
Cc: [Seyfarth, Heather](#); [Crawford, Tom](#); [Hayner, Jeff](#); [Higgins, Sara](#)
Subject: Re: Council of the Commons
Date: Friday, January 29, 2021 3:42:09 PM

Thank you. If there is anything either Jeff or I need to do before 5pm today, let us know.

The PC appointment and PAC names also need to go to the clerk, I think.

And for Legistar, hoping center of the city Taskforce final report and Heather's purpose doc can be placed there for reference docs

On Jan 29, 2021, at 3:15 PM, Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org> wrote:

I would suggest that this resolution go first on the agenda. Then I will prepare a resolution with the revised appointments to substitute for the resolution currently on the agenda.

I will work out the procedural steps with the Clerk's Office.

From: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org>
Cc: Seyfarth, Heather <HSeyfarth@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Higgins, Sara <SHiggins@a2gov.org>
Subject: RE: Council of the Commons

I chatted with CM Hayner, he's supportive of these changes as well.

The only question we have left is procedural. Does this resolution take the place of the what's on the agenda currently? Do we move to introduce it as a substitute? Do we need to let Ms. Beaudry know about who we're nominating? Basically, what next.

Thanks,

Erica Briggs, Ward 5 City Council Representative (she/her/hers)
Email: ebriggs@a2gov.org
Cell: 734-355-3931
www.a2gov.org

From: Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 12:59 PM

To: Briggs, Erica <EBriggs@a2gov.org>

Cc: Seyfarth, Heather <HSeyfarth@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>

Subject: RE: Council of the Commons

CM Briggs and Hayner,

Apologies, apparently my Outlook was not updating until about noon.

Attached with some copy edits and a few other standard items. I believe most are self-explanatory, but I note that subsection c is taken from the Transportation Commission and is intended simply to ease housekeeping on the other boards, since the term on the Council of the Commons would otherwise be a different length than the term on their own board (2 years vs 3).

Let me know if this is okay and I will add for Monday.

Christopher M. Frost | Senior Assistant City Attorney
City of Ann Arbor · 301 E. Huron St. · Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.794.6186 Direct | 734.794.6170 Office | cfrost@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

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Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 7:39 AM

To: Frost, Christopher <CFrost@a2gov.org>

Cc: Seyfarth, Heather <HSeyfarth@a2gov.org>; Crawford, Tom <TCrawford@a2gov.org>; Hayner, Jeff <JHayner@a2gov.org>; Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>

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