

MINUTES

DRAFT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 4:00 p.m.

111 S. Michigan Ave., Room 200, Saginaw MI 48602

Present: Gerald Little - Committee Chair, Christopher Boyd, Lisa Coney, Denny Harris, Sheldon Matthews, Tracey Slodowski, Richard Spitzer, Jack Tany, and Michael Webster
Absent: Mark Piotrowski and John Kaczynski
Others: Vanessa Guerra, Mary Catherine Hannah, Dave Gilbert, Jaime Ceja, Eric Haggett, Nicole Lee, Kelly Suppes, Brandell Adams, Katharine Tessin, Suzy Koepplinger, Renee Sharkey and Catherine Hicks

- I. Call to order – ***Vice-Chair Little at 4:00 p.m.***
- II. Welcome
- III. Public comment – None
- IV. Agenda

- Presentation of parking and wayfinding study by Walker Consultants
- Eric Haggett, Director of Planning, Walker Consultants, presented the company's recommendations to create a traffic flow and parking program that fully supports the County of Saginaw Campus, activates Old Town Saginaw, supports small businesses and signage that enhances the customer/visitor experience; is prominent, clear, and in keeping with Old Town aesthetic and creates ease of access to Saginaw County facilities. He recommended that someone work with Google Maps so that visitors get accurate directions when they search for the address. He reported that out of over 200 responses to the parking survey sent to employees, the visitor's lot on Cass Street is the preferred parking location. The proposed pay station will cost about \$15,000 but will not require outside technicians to service it. It can be serviced by a county technician. He recommended creating a committee to make decisions such as the look of the signs that can be more consistent with the County Seal and much different than the images of the signs included in the proposal.
- *Commissioner Boyd asked if Saginaw County Road Commission has been included in the planning and he was informed that later in the process they will be included. He also recommended that Judge and juror parking be non-specifically marked for safety reasons.*
- *Vice-Chair Little asked where and how far away the signs will be to direct the public to the campus. The map in the slideshow shows the furthest locations to be at the corners of Court Street and Harrison Street, Michigan Avenue and Ames Street, Court Street and Hamilton Street, and two at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Gratiot Avenue.*
- *Commissioner Tany asked if Walker Consultants group had answered all the questions from the county employees. The speaker, Eric Haggett, indicated they had answered most questions but plan to answer the rest in a future presentation.*
- *Commissioner Coney asked in what other counties Walker Consultants have a presence. Eric Haggett indicated they do not have any county specific projects, but they have completed municipal projects within the state.*

- *Commissioner Matthews asked about the safety of the parking facilities for employees and elected officials. He stated most employees are women who often must walk to and from the building in the dark. Eric Haggett indicated they are aware of this concern and have had conversations with the Maintenance Department on improved lighting as well as talks about the physical presence of a county staff member monitoring the parking spaces. Commissioner Matthews also inquired about the limited amount of handicap spaces available and stated more need to be added. Eric Haggett agreed that ADA access is an issue.*
- *Boyd asked if there was the ability to extend the time on the proposed kiosk for those who end up spending more time at the courthouse than planned. Eric Haggett confirmed that this will be an option. Individuals can use the app to remotely extend their time. Parking permissions can also be obtained by registering license plates. Grace periods can be programed. Monthly fees for reservations can also be accommodated through the proposed kiosks.*
- *Chairman Tany asked about parking options for those who have quick business to do in the courthouse and if a "U" shaped drive with angled parking in front of the courthouse would be an option. He pointed out safety issues with the present parallel parking spaces set up on Michigan Avenue. Eric Haggett acknowledged they discussed it, but that option is a much bigger infrastructure project that was not part of the plan. It would also require significant coordination with the City of Saginaw. He hopes that the new proposal for the Director's lot will alleviate some of Chairman Tany's concerns.*
- *Commissioner Spitzer asked for a ballpark total cost estimate. Eric Haggett stated the project will cost approximately \$300,000 to install all types of signs and to connect the Director's lot to the presently gated parking lot on Cass Street. The salary plus benefits of the proposed staff, designated to monitor the parking, would be an ongoing expense.*

- Other Issues of Interest/Concern – Board of Commissioners – None

V. Miscellaneous – None

VI. Adjournment

- ***Moved by Matthews, seconded by Tany, to adjourn. Motion carried; time being 4:58 p.m.***