

Comerica Bank officials give input on downtown walkthrough project

Don't want to develop second floor space

By Pam Fleming • STAFF WRITER • February 18, 2010

Comerica Bank officials recently met with city staff about the proposed walkthrough project on E. Main Street, with the first two of the four options receiving their approval.

The bank owns the property where the former Girly Daze store used to be and has agreed to allow the city to use the space to construct a walkthrough from the Marquis Parking Lot to E. Main Street. Cooper Design of Ann Arbor has presented four different options to the city.

In the one-story, "tunnel" option, the walkthrough is proposed as a one-story space with the existing second floor lease space remaining above.

In the full, two-story option, the second floor would be removed.

These are the two options bank officials like the best, but no decision has been made yet as to which one the Northville Downtown Development Authority will select.

Lori Ward, DDA executive director, said bank officials would be open to a lease situation with the city on the walkthrough area property, but they are not interested in being landlords to a business.

That's why they prefer the options that do not involve maintaining the second-floor space.

"It was a good meeting," said Pat Sullivan, city manager. "They're open to leasing (the space)."

WANT TO AVOID LIABILITY

Sullivan said one reason bank officials want to avoid maintaining and leasing the second-floor space to a tenant is the issue of liability if they do so.

"They're going to run the project through their legal department," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he likes option No. 2, which features an open second floor, but the DDA has the budget to do either option.

"Everyone thinks we can make either option work," Ward said.

Bank officials will be reviewing the two options internally and provide feedback to city officials in the near future.

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