

From: [Doreen Harper](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#); [Michael Matthias](#)
Cc: [Harper Doreen](#)
Subject: Article regarding empty downtown properties and the impacts surrounding them.
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 4:44:20 PM

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Dear City Council Members and City Manager Matthias,

I came across this article while trying to search on how to get negligent and absentee property owners to take responsibility for their investments. I found it interesting about how the appearance of empty store fronts is a deterrent for investors. Please take a moment to read the article and consider what possibilities can come of it. The article mentions Code Enforcement violations as a tool, so perhaps some ordinances can be put into place to encourage property owners to act on their properties. My guess is that there are some innovative approaches out there that we could use to get things moving in the right direction. It could just be a matter of getting creative with them.

Basically, focusing all of the effort on the marina redevelopment does not solve the problem of our empty and dilapidated store fronts. Investors will still look at how tired it looks and wonder why it is that way. The main street needs to be the focus and then the marina should follow.

[https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/building-entrepreneurial-communities/2022-07-27-bring-life-empty-downtown-buildings?](https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/building-entrepreneurial-communities/2022-07-27-bring-life-empty-downtown-buildings?fbclid=IwAR1u1z8AUJeVI3fl_8Lako12apilxm1fvS4HLhRQRDZey2KjUxDB0612nRE)

[fbclid=IwAR1u1z8AUJeVI3fl_8Lako12apilxm1fvS4HLhRQRDZey2KjUxDB0612nRE](https://extension.illinois.edu/blogs/building-entrepreneurial-communities/2022-07-27-bring-life-empty-downtown-buildings?fbclid=IwAR1u1z8AUJeVI3fl_8Lako12apilxm1fvS4HLhRQRDZey2KjUxDB0612nRE)

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I also think that another way to beautify our main street is to implement one way traffic on MVD and on 7th. It could expand street parking and promote walkability. Parklets are also nice additions for inviting people to move around, sit, enjoy, converse and engage with others. They can be sponsored quarterly by local businesses and maintained by them too. Bike racks would also make a nice addition to our community. I have yet to see a bike rack in town where someone can safely lock up their bike and stop to have something to eat.

Full of ideas and willing to share.

Have a great weekend,

Doreen Harper



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From: [Al and Debbie Walls](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: collaborating with Kent
Date: Saturday, February 18, 2023 4:49:33 PM

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Are the two city councils, Des Moines and Kent, currently collaborating on ensuring the intersection of Pacific Highway and Kent Des MOines Rd. is SAFE AND CLEAN - including a safe clean bus stop located near the new business Burger Meister? no pan handling occupying the intersections and the no garbage/graffiti in and around the entire intersection. I am a Des Moines resident that needs to know what the two cities are collaborating and if not, WHY?

Even though some parts of this intersection and surrounding area are Kent, it IS for sure one of the main entrances to Des Moines and what creates the first impression.

Also, I would love to come to a council meeting and have a conversation, ask questions, etc. of the council. Do I need to sign up to speak? Thank you in advance.

Debbie and Al Walls
21403 6th Avenue S.

From: [Kaylene Moon](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Cc: [Kaylene Moon](#)
Subject: council communication
Date: Friday, February 10, 2023 4:02:46 PM

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Dear Mayor, Council members and City Manager,

Once again, as a resident I write to you in good faith. The last few council meetings have shown the community interest is strong. People are engaged and hopeful. The most important issue, especially now, is COMMUNICATION! There is a need and desire to work with you to find effective avenues of ongoing communication.

It could be regular Town meetings, bulletins posted, articles in Currents with citizen response. I am sure there are many ideas to explore with you. Form a committee of those who are interested. It may slow down the process, but in the end there will be a better product, and the community will feel ownership.

We are simply asking to be a part of our changing Town.

Respectfully, Kaylene Moon Des Moines resident

From: [Andy Hale](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Marina Redevelopment
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 10:08:55 PM

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Dear Des Moines City Council,

Thank you very much for entertaining and researching the issue of redevelopment in the Marina District within the City of Des Moines. We would like to tell you that we enjoyed the presentation by the architect during the council meeting on 01/26/2023 crafting and presenting examples of what potential Marina Redevelopment and ecological protection could look like.

Based on the presentation we observed from the City Council meeting here is some of our concerns:

- 1) Traffic - Having 223rd St become the sole access point for the developed Marina District, we feel would create excessive vehicular traffic through a residential area leading to unsafe vehicle drivers operating in conjunction with pedestrians accessing the planned walkway beginning at Overlook Park I . We would request the council and planners consider additional vehicular routing via Kent Des Moines Rd. (State Route 509) to 227th St (two lanes in both directions) and Dock Ave to access the Marina redevelopment project. This would create an easy and safe access for walkers, citizens of Des Moines and visitors to the new Marina development.
- 2) View Obstruction - While we support the council looking forward to the future of the City of Des Moines, we feel the council could find a compromise between complete view erosion and the ability to build a hotel, and/or parking structure that meet the requirements of the State, City of Des Moines and appeal to the vast majority of home owners whom own on the Marina floor and surrounding homes.
- 3) Safety - The Marina Redevelopment project will attract additional population to the amenities that are planned. Potential issues from this are crime, noise, loitering, illegal dumping, and illegal drug usage. Your project will require gated, fee for parking, and proactive law enforcement at park closure or amenities closure time to ensure the safety of those visitors and residents of Des Moines.

We appreciate the research and time the council has conducted into this project and we fully support positive change and growth that benefits all citizens of Des Moines. We are open minded and a growing family and hope you consider our three significant concerns as you proceed with the planning for the Marina district redevelopment.

Thank You for your time and consideration,

Andy and Kellye Hale
22226 Cliff Ave S #101
Des Moines, WA
98198
503 705 3807

Sent from my iPad

From: [V.L. Andrews](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Public Input Vs. Public Engagement
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023 7:51:11 AM

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Good morning,

At last night's council meeting, the majority were satisfied with the public input you are providing and getting (thanks, Council member Achziger, you tried, and those of us present appreciated it). But the difference between what you are getting and what we are asking for is this: all current forms of public input offer only a snapshot of residents' wishes.

Council meetings: yes, you may get articulate comments from residents who have been reading what staff is sharing with you, but there is no opportunity for dialogue. We speak, you listen, we leave.

Large-scale public meetings: there's dialogue, but you may or may not get educated opinions. You get a snapshot of the wishes of those who knew about the meeting and cared enough to come.

Public surveys: another snapshot, no dialogue.

A planning commission gives you and staff the opportunity to hand-pick residents who are willing to read everything staff/consultants learn and propose, come to regular meetings and be a sounding board, an unpaid adjunct to you as electeds, a long-term focus group that can ask questions you might not otherwise think of. In short, you and the citizens you serve get a dialogue with your community and a better product at the end. Which is what we want. *We want to work with you.*

Think about this: while the feasibility study is progressing, you have time to reinstate the planning commission link on the volunteer opportunities page of the website and invite applications. By the time the feasibility study is done, you could have your hand-picked group of committed residents ready to provide feedback that can help you make good decisions. As an advisory group, we know wouldn't have to take our advice, but you would be in a much stronger position to justify your votes on how to proceed.

I plan to come to the next council meeting to state my case again. Thanks for that opportunity.

Victoria Andrews (206-824-3966)

Sent from [Outlook](#)

From: [Laurel J Hughes](#)
To: [CityCouncil](#)
Subject: Putting the cart before the horse
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:11:09 PM

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So, we finance and build this grandiose ramp from a fountain in the marina to the top of Cliff Ave... then what? What are people walking up the ramp TO?

Don't you think we should put finances into rejuvenating downtown? MVD and 7th Ave S? Those horrid green cube shrubs up and down either side of the streets? Des Moines' appeal is that of, to quote Deputy Mayor Buxton, "a sleepy little town." It's quaint, cozy but has far too many vacant lots and neighborhood services. Why have several people mentioned how difficult it is to get a business license? Maybe the first step should be revamping those requirements so they ENCourage rather than DIScourage new business. Encourage cottage industries and tourist drawing businesses like antique shops and art galleries. Look at what Edmonds has done. AND, we need a grocery store. IGA, Thriftway, Whole Foods. Especially if the Kroger/Albertsons merger goes through.

If you think Des Moines is a destination for cruise passengers, we can get plenty of tourists including cruise passengers if there are businesses and attractions to go to. No, a hotel on the bulkhead is definitely out of the question. If that's the only location on the marina floor that will attract customers, forget about it entirely. We the People want our expansive views out over the bulkhead to stay just the way they are. That doesn't make us anti-development, just realistic about what the current attractions in Des Moines are and not wanting to throw them away. The boat launch drew tourists. Get it back on line.

Instead of pouring Lord knows how much money into a new plaza, fountains and ramps in the Marina, RENOVATE DOWNTOWN.

Laurel Hughes
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