

Public can comment on Huntington Woods' land-use plan

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A last-minute change scheduled to be included in the new Master Land Use Plan for Huntington Woods would encourage a proposal to place pillars of public art up and down the length of Woodward.

People with other ideas should rush their thoughts to Huntington Woods City Hall — 26815 Scotia — if they want them considered for the city's new Master Land Use Plan, officials said this week.

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The public, whether residents or not, can submit suggestions on anything from the size of garages and home additions to be allowed in Huntington Woods to whether the city installs curbs, and what kind, wherever there are none now. Anyone can view the current draft of the master plan at the Huntington Woods Public Library, 26415 Scotia; or see it on the Web at www.ci.huntington-woods.mi.us (click on the link to the plan on the right side of the home page).

On Monday night, the city closed a public hearing on the draft of its new master plan, although the Planning Commission isn't expected to vote on it until its next meeting on Dec. 17, said City Planner Bonnie Cook. The draft, which took 14 months to write, will be revised in two key ways, Cook said on Tuesday.

"We're adding more about trees — maintenance and diversification — and we're addressing cooperation with the other communities along Woodward" to achieve regional goals such as improved mass transit and the creation of the linked series of pillar-like sculptures called tributes, she said.

Also on Monday night, just three miles south of the Huntington Woods public hearing, the Ferndale City Council approved having that city get Woodward's first tribute, to be placed in the median near 9 Mile.

Ferndale's approval included that city's commitment of \$30,000 toward the total of \$167,000 that its tribute is expected to cost. Most of that is to be paid for by federal grants, Ferndale City Council members heard on Monday, during a presentation by Heather Carmona, a Ferndale resident who is executive director of the nonprofit Woodward Avenue Action Association.

The association is a business-government coalition that has pushed for two years for the tributes, as a way to unify "Woodward's brand" and to draw more tourists to the corridor, Carmona said. She said at the meeting in Ferndale City Hall that she didn't expect other cities would have to pay for their tributes, as the cost likely would come down.

Referring to the tribute plan, Cook, the long-time planner for Huntington Woods, said: "If Ferndale's

goes up and then other communities come along and do this, it's got to be a real identifying feature for the corridor. Can you imagine if we have auto parts at one place, music in another?

"We thought here in the Woods, with Royal Oak, we'd like to do one with zoo animals," she said. The tributes, made of glass and concrete, are to be illuminated at night with power from solar panels, according to Monday's presentation in Ferndale.

As for Huntington Woods encouraging mass transit in its master plan, Cook added: "Even if someday, when I may not be around, we actually get light rail on Woodward, they could still use those tributes. They can always move them and use them somewhere."

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