

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Tuesday, May 11, 2010 Board Meeting Hennepin County Central Public Library 300 Nicollet Mall Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Other board members in attendance included Andrea Christenson; Gerry Ewald, Vice Chair; Andy Hauer; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Corey Kline; and Wally Swan, Secretary.

Absent board member was George Rosenquist.

Guests in attendance were: Susan Braun and David Fields, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.; Rebecca Corruccini, Sierra Club; 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman; Tom Melchior, Larson Allen; and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board District 4 Commissioner Anita Tabb.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Chair Sweet asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda. Sweet requested to table the Web site conversion project discussion until the cost benefit analysis is complete.

Hauer moved, and Ewald seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. 7th Ward Update by Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Goodman commented on the following items:

- Lisa's aide Doug Kress is leaving her office. He received a Bush Fellowship and will likely go to Harvard. His last day is anticipated for sometime in early July. She is beginning the process to find a new aide.
- Lunch with Lisa is on hiatus in May and June. Out of her entire Ward, the downtown community dominates in attendance. Hauer complemented her on the Lunch with Lisa that highlighted the new Target Field. The next Lunch with Lisa will be in July and feature the Peavey Plaza redevelopment project.
- The south section of Downtown West has one of the lowest rates of participation in the Census. Participation is important to ensure a fair share of federal funding and to maintain political representation.
- Ward 7 E-newsletter. If you'd like to receive this electronically, contact her assistant Ruth Hamann at www.Ruth.Hamann@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

- Results Minneapolis' website, the public-friendly gateway to performance information on the City's key issues: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results/>.
- RFP for the Parcel E Liner received three responses.
- RiverWest parking lot development.
- Planning Commission rescinded approvals of The Nicollet.
- Bob Lux is possibly purchasing Block E.
- Fuji Ya site continues to be in litigation.
- Former Steve Frenz development site east of the Guthrie Theatre purchased by Jim Stanton of Shamrock Companies.
- Jaguar redevelopment is not going to happen.
- Lunds project at 10th and Hennepin is moving forward.
- Hennepin Avenue conversion project.
- Press conference in Elliot Park regarding the 2010 summer construction season.

Goodman also responded to questions from the Board and discussed date options for her August Ward 7 update so as not to conflict with National Night Out and the primary elections. Rock will work with her office to finalize her availability.

IV. Downtown East/ Elliot Park (DEEP) 2100 Initiative Presentation

Sweet introduced Susan Braun, Executive Director of Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc. (EPNI), and David Fields, Community Development Director for EPNI. Braun and Fields gave a presentation on the DEEP 2100 Initiative.

This initiative is a unique effort to redevelop and revitalize Chicago Avenue from the point it enters the downtown community in Elliot Park through Downtown East to the Mississippi River. Due to the number of parking lots, there are many opportunities to grow new development along this corridor. CLOSE Landscape Architecture+ approached EPNI about preparing a master plan for Chicago Avenue and surrounding area to help ensure that the most appropriate kind of development takes place.

The DEEP 2100 Initiative seeks to capitalize on the development opportunities noted above based on the following guiding principles:

- Generate economic vitality
- Create effective policy
- Preserve historic character
- Ensure social equity
- Promote health and wellness
- Advance ecological responsibility

Braun and Fields noted that the DEEP Taskforce is preparing to meet with the many property owners along Chicago Avenue and the surrounding area to let them know about the initiative and to gain their support.

Braun and Fields responded to miscellaneous questions from the Board regarding the initiative, e.g.: what they wanted from the DMNA Board, and why this was the first time they were hearing about this effort.

Braun and Fields stated that the goal of the initiative is to form public/private partnerships that will help revitalize and redevelop Downtown East and Elliot Park. They are asking for the DMNA Board to become active and engaged participants in the DEEP Initiative by sitting on committees, attending meetings with property owners, and generally being an advocate for the effort.

Braun and Fields explained that the DEEP Initiative emerged as a result of a design charette held a couple of years ago surrounding the reconstruction of Chicago Avenue. The East Downtown Council (EDC) and EPNI saw the reconstruction project as an opportunity to develop a vision for the future of Chicago Avenue as it transverse through the downtown community across neighborhood boundaries.

Sweet indicated that ever since the DMNA Board has allowed her to represent them on the EDC, she has kept them aware of this initiative in various ways and reminded the Board that they have provided letters of support for the EDC's applications to the City of Minneapolis' Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Grant Program for the past 2 years. The GSNBD grants are helping facilitate many aspects of the DEEP Initiative.

Christenson indicated that she first heard about the initiative at EPNI's annual meeting she recently attended at which she was elected to its Board and to serve on the DEEP Initiative Taskforce. As a result of these developments, Christenson was appointed by the Board to be the key contact under DMNA's Outreach and Collaboration Efforts for the DEEP Initiative.

V. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Update

District 4 Commissioner Anita Tabb gave an update regarding the programs, activities and initiatives of the MPRB and highlighted the following:

- In collaboration with the National Recreation and Park Association, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, North Loop Kids, and others, a new playground will be built at 4th Avenue North and James I. Rice Parkway in the North Loop neighborhood. The Minneapolis Parks Foundation is leading the effort to raise funds. For more detailed information visit <http://mplsparksfoundation.org/index.php?contentID=1723> and <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1187>.
- The 2010 National Recreation and Park Association's Congress and Exposition will take place at Minneapolis' Convention Center from October 25 through 29. For more information visit <http://www.nrpa.org/Content.aspx?id=2480>.
- LGA cuts have adversely impacted the MPRB.
- The MPRB is seeking to purchase the Scherer Brothers Lumber Company property, a 10+ acre site on the east side of the Mississippi River south of Plymouth Avenue in order to expand public access to the recreational amenities of the Mississippi River. The land fits into the MPRB's Above the Falls Master Plan, a long-range plan to develop the land along the Mississippi River in the Central Minneapolis Riverfront

area as a regional park. It also compliments the Park Board's Comprehensive Plan visions to create parkland that "endures and captivates, shape city character and meet diverse community needs."

- Fuji Ya site continues to be in litigation. Nothing will happen on this property until the legal issues are resolved.
- The interim Executive Director for the Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation, Cordelia Pierson, is now the official Executive Director. She can be reached at 612-843-0122. For more information about the MRC visit www.mplsriverfrontcorp.org.

Tabb also responded to miscellaneous questions from DMNA Board members.

VI. Presentation on Federal Climate Change Legislation

Rebecca Corruccini, a volunteer with the Minneapolis office of the Sierra Club gave a presentation on proposed Federal Climate Change Legislation. She indicated that strong legislation is vital to curbing global warming, clearing our air, increasing energy independence, reducing consumers' utility bills and creating new green jobs. Corruccini requested that the DMNA Board consider approving a resolution of support asking Senators Klobuchar and Franken to work for the passage of strong climate and clean energy jobs legislation in 2010.

Hauer moved and Ewald seconded a motion to provide the Sierra Club with a resolution of support for strong clean energy job legislation in 2010. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock will prepare the resolution on DMNA letterhead and forward it to Sweet. Sweet will arrange a time for Board members to sign the resolution. She will forward the final copy on to the Minneapolis office of the Sierra Club.

VII. Land Use Report

There were no land use items to present at the May meeting; however Rock indicated that there are two land use related items already scheduled for the June agenda:

- Parcel E Liner RFP update by CPED Senior Project Coordinator Carrie Flack; and
- Metro Transit Bus Study presentation by Charles Carlson, AICP, manager of Transitway Projects.

VIII. Crime and Safety Update

No crime and safety update was given due to George Rosenquist's absence.

IX. NRP Implementation Report

Subsequent to the April 13th Board meeting, Rock made several attempts to notify NRP Specialist Barb Lickness that the DMNA Board had approved the revised Phase II NRP Plan.

Once contacted, Lickness requested another copy of the revised plan. Also, as of the week of May 3, Rock had not received a response from the City Attorney regarding his opinion of the revised plan.

Sweet suggested the Board tentatively plan on presenting the Phase II Plan to the community in September.

X. Staff Report

Christie Rock reported on her written report for the period 4/10/10 to 5/7/10 previously submitted via email to the Board and asked if anyone had specific questions. She highlighted the work she has done in conjunction with the Web site conversion project.

XI. Consideration of Minutes from April 13, 2010, Board meeting minutes

Ewald moved and Hauer seconded a motion to approve the April 13, 2010 Board meeting minutes. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

XII. Consideration of the May 2010 Financial Report

Rock reported on the FY 2010 Budget vs. Actual as of May 2010.

Ewald moved and Christensen seconded a motion to receive and file the May 2010 Financial Reports. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

XIII. Old / New / Other Business

Sweet distributed the Outreach and Collaboration spreadsheet and asked the Board to provide an update on the respective organizations in which they are involved.

XIV. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Chair

Secretary