

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2010

Hennepin County Central Public Library

Pohlad Hall

300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the annual meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Other board members in attendance were:

Andrea Christenson
Gerry Ewald, Vice Chair
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
Paula Klimek, Treasurer
Corey Kline
George Rosenquist, Crime and Safety Liaison
Wally Swan, Secretary

Guests in attendance included:

Kathleen Anderson, North Star Lofts resident
Matt Clark, MPD First Precinct Lieutenant
Scott Dibble, MN Senator District 60
Lisa Goodman, Ward 7 Council Member
Sarah Harris, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District
Eric Laska, RiverWest resident
Melissa Laska, RiverWest resident
Tom Melchior, LarsonAllen, LLP
Joan Niemiec, League of Women Voters
Monica Nilsson, St. Stephen's Human Services Street Outreach
Margaret Owens, Centre Village resident
Pam Teleen, League of Women Voters
Scott Parkin, Hoffman Parkin Urban Realty
Jill Schwimmer, Aide to MN Senator Scott Dibble
Alan Shilepsky, The River Towers resident
Anita Tabb, MPRB District 4 Commissioner
Dave Tinjum, Bridgewater resident/Mill City Times editor
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident
Dale White, RiverWest resident
Jesse Winkler, Target employee

DMNA staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Sweet welcomed the audience, thanked the library for hosting the meeting and Dunn Brothers for providing refreshments. She also thanked DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock for coordinating the logistics for the event.

II. 7th Ward Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman thanked the DMNA Board for inviting her to be a part of this year's annual meeting, and recognized and thanked the other guest speakers in attendance: Monica Nilsson from St. Stephen's Human Services; Sarah Harris from the Downtown Improvement District; and First Precinct Sector Lieutenant Matt Clark. Goodman highlighted the following initiatives and activities:

- Downtown Improvement District (DID)
- 2011 City Budget
- Upcoming Lunch with Lisa on January 26, 2011 (fourth Wednesdays of the month)

Finally, Goodman thanked the DMNA Board for the work that it does in reviewing land use applications and providing recommendations to both she and City staff.

III. MN Legislative Update

Senator Scott Dibble, who recaptured his District 60 seat this past November, gave a brief summary of the legislative accomplishments over the past year and what he will focus on in the 87th (2011-2012) legislative session. For more detailed information about his record and activities visit http://www.senate.leg.state.mn.us/members/member_bio.php?leg_id=10142.

IV. DMNA's 2010 Accomplishments

Under Crime and Safety

- Continued participation in the Downtown Court Watch program whose mission is to hold chronic offenders accountable for their crimes and to reduce and prevent the commission of new crimes in the downtown community (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/CourtWatch.pdf>)
- Contributed \$2,500 to the Currie Avenue Partnership, a faith and business community partnership designed to move people out of homeless shelters into permanent housing

Under Downtown Development

- Strengthened collaborative relationships with the following groups:
 - Downtown Neighborhood Associations Leaders which is comprised of leaders from North Loop (www.northloop.org), Loring Park (www.loringpark.org), Elliot Park (www.elliottpark.org), and DMNA (www.thedmna.org) for the purpose of promoting shared interests and resolving shared concerns
 - Contributed \$10,000 to the North Loop Kids Playground Project, the only child-friendly outdoor play area in downtown
 - East Downtown Council, the business organization for Downtown East and Elliot Park, which recently completed a Great Streets market analysis to identify and

- understand the factors impacting the economic revitalization of the Chicago Avenue corridor and surrounding area (www.edcmpls.org)
- o Minneapolis Downtown Council (www.downtownminneapolis.com)
- o Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation which was established, at the request of the City and MPRB, to support and implement riverfront revitalization (www.mplsriverfrontcorp.org)
- o Minnesota Orchestra Assn Community Engagement Committee to provide input on the renovation of Peavey Plaza
- o Contributed \$1,000 to 2020 Partners which continues to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development by leveraging assets of Target Field, Minneapolis Farmers Market, transit and energy
- o Re-launched DMNA's website under WordPress software for improved management and customization

Under Land Use

- Reviewed numerous variance requests, conditional use permits, site plan reviews, liquor license applications, and provided letters of support and recommendations to City staff and elected officials. Some examples include:
 - o Supported Tobacco Free Minneapolis Parks Policy submitted by Tobacco Free Youth
 - o Reviewed the Historic Forum Cafeteria's Certificate of Appropriateness application
 - o Reviewed Parcel E Liner RFP
 - o Invited EPNI to give presentation on the DEEP (Downtown East Elliot Park) 2100 Initiative
 - o Reviewed the City's Hennepin Stages RFP
 - o Provided letter of support to Brighton Development Company's redevelopment proposal for the Valspar site
 - o Reviewed Wanderer's Wondrous Asian Kitchen's Class B liquor license application
 - o Reviewed CSM Corporation's Class E Liquor license application for Viceroy's American Bar (former location of Harry's)
 - o Provided letter of support to Artspace for its proposed project on Parcel E Liner Parcel
 - o Reviewed Skyway Wine and Spirit's Liquor license application
 - o Reviewed the American Academy of Neurology's General land use application and variance request

Under NRP Implementation

- Completed the NRP Phase II Plan which was distributed to the general membership in advance of this meeting for review

Thereafter, Sweet entertained a motion to approve the NRP Phase II Plan. After the motion was seconded, discussion ensued to address whether those in attendance had received, read and understood the plan. There being no further issues to address, the plan was approved.

Sweet then thanked the audience for its approval and noted that without the civic-minded efforts of the DMNA volunteer board, the support of its neighbors within the community and the NRP, none

of the DMNA's activities could have been achieved. She also extended her personal thanks to past and present board members, downtown neighbors, and the NRP.

V. Efforts to End Homelessness in the Downtown

Sweet introduced Monica Nilsson, Director of Street Outreach for St. Stephen's Human Services, who described the suffering caused by homelessness, the costs burdened by the community, and the efforts she is engaged in to help alleviate this problem. Specifically, the Street Outreach team:

- Serves as the first contact between individuals experiencing homelessness and the community members concerned for them
- Partners with law enforcement, faith communities, probation officers, and many social service providers to secure housing opportunities as well as emergency needs
- Seeks out those living outside to connect people to resources
- Intervenes when livability crimes are better served with a social service response
- Responds to non-emergency calls from the community

For more information about St. Stephen's many other programs to help end homelessness visit www.ststephensmpls.org.

VI. Downtown Improvement District Update

Sweet introduced DID COO Sarah Harris. Harris provided an update on the work of the DID over the past year. Accomplishments include the following:

- Ambassadors (which are easy to spot in their lime-green uniforms) patrolled more than 125 blocks in downtown from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sundays
- Ambassadors provided assistance to more than 60,000 people ranging from directions, advice on restaurants, things to do while downtown, helping people find their cars to, most impressively, saving lives by responding to emergency situations
- Marked its first year of service in July which saw a cleaner, safer and greener downtown having removed more than 600,000 pounds of trash from city streets, cleaned up 5,500 graffiti tags, and pressure-washed 1,000 city blocks
- Held first ever Minneapolis Emergency PrepareFair in September (co-sponsored by Downtown Emergency Advisory Committee) to raise awareness of the important role downtown businesses, building owners and managers, and regional public safety agencies play in preparing for and responding to emergencies
- Launched new DID and MPD mobile surveillance camera unit to monitor specific areas and expand the scope of downtown surveillance capabilities
- Implemented winter greening and holiday lighting program along Hennepin Avenue, Nicollet Mall and at Peavey Plaza

For more information please visit www.minneapolisdid.com.

VII. Elections to DMNA Board of Directors

Sweet introduced and thanked the current DMNA Board members and noted that Corey Kline was not seeking re-election then called upon DMNA Board Secretary Wally Swan to moderate the election process.

There were four seats each with 2-year terms and four candidates to fill the four available seats: Gerry Ewald, Paula Klimek, Carletta Sweet, and Jesse Winkler.

Swan called for nominations from the floor. When no additional nominations were offered, Swan closed nominations then gave the four candidates the opportunity to comment about themselves and share their interest in serving on the board.

Thereafter Swan entertained a motion to elect the four candidates running. The motion passed.

VIII. Crime and Safety Report

Sweet Introduced Minneapolis Police Department Sector Lieutenant Matt Clark who gave the audience an update on crime and safety activities in the downtown community. The Lieutenant noted that crime is down in the First Precinct and indicated that this was due in large part to the cops who work the downtown beat who have a lot of community policing experience and care very much about the downtown community as well as the work of the Downtown Court Watch / Downtown 100 program.

IX. Election Redux

Swan advised the audience that the League of Women Voters required votes for candidates be given in writing (in order to match the number of ballots received against the number of individuals who had signed the attendance sheet), then he distributed the ballots that had been prepared. After ballots were collected and counted, the LWV announced the election of the four candidates: Gerry Ewald, Paula Klimek, Carletta Sweet, and Jesse Winkler.

X. Adjournment

Sweet congratulated the incumbents and newly elected board members, and thanked everyone for coming to the annual meeting. She also encouraged people to attend board meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the DMNA, please contact its Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock by phone at 320-583-4573 or via email at christie@hutchtel.net or info@thedmna.org.

Being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2011

Chair

Secretary