

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Hennepin County Central Library

300 Nicollet Mall

Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Gerry Ewald called the board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Andrea Christenson

Andy Hauer

Paula Klimek

Wallace Swan

Carletta Sweet

Jesse Winkler

Absent board member was:

Eric Laska

DMNA staff member Christie Rock was also absent.

Guests in attendance included:

Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman

Heidi Kurtze, Artspace

Becky Carlson St. Clair, Artspace

Sarah Swingley, Artspace

MPRB District 4 Commissioner Anita Tabb

Downtown West resident Doug Verdier

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Klimek asked that protocol for responding to constituents be added and Hauer asked that the first annual Community Connections Conference report be added. Hauer moved and Christenson seconded a motion to approve the February agenda as amended placing these items under old business. The motion passed.

III. Ward 7 Update by Council Member Lisa Goodman

- The next Lunch with Lisa is on Wednesday, February 29th at the University of St. Thomas and will have Minnesota State Representative Marion Green (60A) talking about what's happening in the legislative session.
- There's a couple of street resurfacing projects in downtown this summer: 1st Street from Hennepin Avenue to 3rd Avenue South which will affect residents at The Towers; and 11th Avenue South from South 8th Street to 24th Street East. There will also be some sidewalk repair projects that will include Chicago Avenue and West River Parkway. Unlike resurfacing,

sidewalk repair involves inspecting on a panel-by-panel basis, determining problems, repairing and then billing the property owner.

- The City's budget is now online and she will bring a 4-page budget in brief at a future meeting. <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/budget/WCMS1Q-068777>
- There are a number of boards and commissions positions open. If interested take a look online. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm>
- Izzy's [who was sold the 1100 South 2nd Street site by the City for a proposed ice cream producing facility] next phase will be going through the design review process; they will be instructed to come before the DMNA to present their design. Only approvals they may need would be if they were to propose something beyond the zoning guidelines; she doubts this will happen.
- The Jaguar site will have an official groundbreaking this spring.
- A draft Redistricting (the once-in-a-decade process of redrawing city ward and park district boundaries to reflect changes in population) map is available for comment. The Redistricting Commission's approach is to draw a line down 7th Street resulting in most of DMNA and North Loop in Ward 3, and Loring Park and Elliot Park in Ward 7. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/redistricting2012/index.htm>
- Waiting for the February 21st court ordered statewide redistricting; under two of the plans all of downtown would be under District 58.

IV. Land Use Report

- *Artspace Liner Parcel (800 Washington Avenue South).* Heidi Kurtze reported on the latest design elements for their national Artspace headquarters to be built on the liner parcel bounded by Chicago, Washington and 9th Avenues in Downtown East/Mill District. UrbanWorks is the architect. They are trying to maintain the integrity of the corner of Chicago and Washington as a prominent anchor having significant commercial investment. Artspace will occupy most of the ground floor with the remainder being an interactive space for showcasing artists from around the country with a retail component and coffee shop, and flexible performance space. They are also trying to piggyback the work they've done at the Cowles Center with an education program and multimedia functionality component. Above on 5 floors will be 59 Studio, 1-BR and 2-BR live/work units at 50 to 60 percent of AMI (\$700 to \$1100 per unit range). On the top floor there will be an urban demonstration garden that will tie into the Mill City Farmers Market, and a boardroom. Parking spaces will be available at the ramp on South 2nd Street. However, since it was financed with tax-exempt bonds they can designate spaces for Artspace employees and guests, but they cannot do so for the residents. Artspace is in discussions with the City to work this out.

Last year Artspace received \$400,000 of Livable Communities Demonstration Accounts funds from the Met Council, and recently received \$900,000 CPED Affordable Housing Trust funds. They are working on bond financing and other pieces of financing in order to be able to begin construction as early as Fall 2012. They are raising the \$2 million philanthropic gap from national funders for this project. This is a \$14 million development and their goal is to raise 1 to 2 percent of the total development cost (\$140,000) through local businesses, individuals, neighborhoods groups and communities. Discussion ensued about donating to the project through NRP Phase II funds. Christenson asked to have this item placed on the March 2012 agenda. Heidi said she would put together a formal request and submit it to the DMNA at a

later date. They are seeking a letter of support for their bonding application that was sent to DMNA staff.

Christenson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the letter of support for the bonding request they are seeking from the City. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with Ewald abstaining.

- ***Continued discussion regarding the Alatus Partners Block E casino proposal and consideration of scheduling a community meeting.*** No discussion or action taken on this item.

V. MPRB / Crown Hydro Update by Commissioner Anita Tabb

- Anita advised that Crown Hydro's Washington, DC law firm submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with an alternative way to approach the project (i.e., on federal property at the Army Corps of Engineers lock). The Corps of Engineers, which always had concerns with the project, now have additional concerns that include having to shutdown the intakes every time the lock opens. Also interesting is that they will still need MPRB land although they claim to the contrary. Letters are being written to prevent FERC granting their appeal.

Doug Verdier, a RiverWest resident who has been closely following this project, advised that he received a copy of a compliance directive from FERC to Crown Hydro dated February 13th giving them 30 days to respond. Verdier believes the tone of the letter is not favorable towards the project. This is great news and Tabb is hopeful they can put a stake in the heart at the state legislature. With Renewable Development Funds, Crown Hydro purchased the turbines; however there is still approximately \$3 million available that they may pursue. The hope is that if the FERC license goes away so will RDF.

Winkler, who attended the Senate District 58B debate with Hauer and Swan, noted that it was evident by the new candidates' positions that they have no idea what the issues are for downtown residents and as a consequence, placed hosting a political candidates forum on DMNA's agenda as a means to educate them on downtown issues.

DMNA has not taken a position on this issue, however it has kept abreast of all new developments and attended MPRB meetings related to this topic. There are 6 MPRB Commissioners who oppose the project and 3 in favor: Olson, Fine and Kummer.

- Tabb described her current downtown boundary and what the new Redistricting map will yield: the loss of Harrison and the gain of Downtown East.
- Tabb encouraged board members to attend the February 27th Water Works community meeting and explained that the Minneapolis Parks Foundation has a donor [former Valspar CFO Paul Reyelts] who wanted to fund this feasibility study. The MPRB is hopeful that MPF will also be able to fund a substantial amount of the project cost resulting from the study.
- Tabb advised that although the MPRB has not taken a stance on the Nicollet Gateway Park vision [see third initiative in *Downtown 2025 Plan*], they have partnered with the Downtown Improvement District and hired the Trust for Public Land to study all potential green space not just MPRB property (e.g., what happens to Gold Medal Park when funding from Bill McGuire runs out), and the feasibility for creating a Downtown Minneapolis Public Realm Conservancy.

VI. NRP Implementation Update

In Rock's absence, no discussion or action was taken on this item.

VII. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

- ***Mill City Farmers Market.*** Presentation and conversation scheduled for March 2012 board meeting.

VIII. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2012

Swan moved and Winkler seconded a motion to approve the board minutes from January 20, 2012. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Consideration of February 2012 Financial Report

Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to receive and file the February 2012 financial report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

X. Staff Report

Sweet moved and Hauer seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

XI. Old business / new business / other business

- ***Discussion regarding DMNA hosting a political candidates forum.*** Winkler reiterated his, Hauer and Swan's experience at the Senate District 58B debate and the candidates' apparent lack of knowledge regarding downtown interests and concerns. After a brief discussion regarding logistics, related cost and potential moderators, it was agreed that Jesse should come back to the board with a detailed plan for board consideration in March 2012.
- ***Update on outreach and collaboration with other downtown organizations.*** Reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart emailed from Sweet in advance of the meeting for updates.
 - ***Minnesota Council of Nonprofits update.*** Swan advised that he attended the MCN daylong Legislative Overview and afternoon session on 501(c)(3) involvement in upcoming ballot initiatives.
 - ***Continued discussion regarding DMNA representative attending Court Watch meetings.*** Winkler attended on February 10. The plan is for Laska to attend on March 9; Klimek on June 8; and Swan perhaps on July 13. Assignments for April and May to be determined. For assistance in filling out Community Impact Statements, Ewald will obtain a template from the new 1st Precinct paralegal Stephanie Lee, 612-673-5423.
- ***First Annual Community Connections Conference.*** Hauer, who attended with Swan, recapped the events of the day: opening with a Native American ceremony followed by keynote speaker Angela Glover Black (see email from Swan dated February 14th for summary of presentation);

followed by four morning workshops in two segments; then lunch with six different caterers and a 20-member MacPhail youth choir; concluding with four afternoon workshops in two segments. The afternoon workshop Hauer attended was "NCR Exposed! The Future of Neighborhood Programs". Hauer along with others have been working with the City to resolve some problems that occurred as a result of moving from the NRP to NCR, e.g., Officers and Directors insurance and whether it would be continued. O&D insurance is being continued and NCR will continue to audit and prepare all documents required by the State. Hauer showed a booklet produced by a neighborhood as an annual report then explained that Robert Thompson said the DMNA could be obligated to do something similar. The budget available for producing these materials range from a few thousand up to \$500,000.

Hauer and Swan thought it was an exceptional and first-class event and recommended the DMNA participate again next year.

- ***Protocol for Responding to Constituent Inquiries.*** Klimek noted that David Tinjum still had not received a response to his inquiry. After a brief discussion regarding the sequence of events then concluding that this occurrence was an anomaly, follow-up will be made with staff on the protocol used for responding to inquiries by the next board meeting.
- ***Consideration of DMNA representative to the Minneapolis Downtown Council.*** In Laska's absence no action was taken on this matter, however Winkler and Klimek indicated their interest in serving as representatives as well. Hauer advised that due to Rosenquist's hospitalization, he would be resigning from the MDC. Ewald advised that Laska has already met with MCD's Director of Membership [Kathleen Motzenbecker] and that he did as well at the annual meeting so they are starting the groundwork for DMNA becoming more involved.

XII. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Chair

Secretary