

## DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

### Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 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 6:00 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Nick Cichowicz  
Andy Hauer  
Eric Laska, Treasurer  
Wallace Swan, Secretary  
Carletta Sweet  
Jesse Winkler, Vice Chair

Board member Andrea Christenson was absent.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Bill Beekman, Ward 13 resident, Electric-Assist Pedicab supporter  
Cam Gordon, Ward 2 Council Member  
Tim Rooney, Butcher & the Boar  
Jim Ruckle, Shea Inc.  
Cori Kuechenmeister, Shea Inc.  
Anita Tabb, District 4 MPRB Commissioner  
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident

#### II. Consideration of the Agenda

*Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the April 9, 2013 board meeting agenda. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### III. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board 4th District Report

Commissioner Anita Tabb reported on the following:

- In the process of forming a Community Advisory Committee for the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan and they will incorporate neighborhood representatives in the appointments. The DMNA should select two appointees, one from Downtown East and one from Downtown West. Tabb recited the charge of the CAC:
  - Become knowledgeable about the project and its scope and advise MPRB staff and consultants throughout the planning process.
  - Understand and represent the needs of regional park visitors.
  - Act as community liaisons for the project and participate in public CAC meetings.
  - Contribute to broad community engagement by acting as primary contact for the CAC's represented communities, and by enhancing the project's interaction with a wide range of stakeholders, including regional park users.
  - Work in parallel with the inter-agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and MPRB staff Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to recommend to the Board of Commissioners a preferred

regional park master plan and, if warranted, a phasing strategy.

Tabb advised that the CAC will convene in June/July with letters of notification to the appointers going out in the next couple weeks so they can begin to think about their appointees. She expects that the CAC will meet on a monthly basis or as the need arises. For more information visit [http://minneapolisparksmn.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_LegiFile.aspx?MeetingID=1208&ID=1648](http://minneapolisparksmn.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?MeetingID=1208&ID=1648)

- Working in conjunction with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation on the Water Works project (a RiverFirst priority project) and when the RFP for the Central Riverfront Master Plan is released, an RFP for the Water Works site will be released simultaneously to begin the serious design work for a broader geographic context.
- Informed the board that the North Loop Neighborhood Association had commissioned a feasibility study for a new park in its neighborhood.

Thereafter, Tabb entertained questions, one of which was concerning the Crown Hydro project. She hasn't heard anything recently but knows that they had gone directly to the Corps of Engineers to conduct some soil borings on what is no longer MPRB land, and that they are actively pursuing ways to continue the project. She has also not heard of them pursuing anything at the Minnesota legislature and suspects it's because they are hoping to use federal land for everything.

Tabb advised that typically before the MPRB does any major planning project, they conduct a survey and that they recently hired a real estate coordinator with a legal background who is reviewing their records to determine encroachments on parkland throughout the system to help resolve any issues.

#### IV. Electric-Assist Pedicab Presentation

Bill Beekman, supporter of the EAP, explained that he had begun this effort a couple years ago because he wanted to purchase a Velofom, a German made pedicab, to operate a small pedicab business. However, state law would not allow the city to legally permit electric-assist bicycles because they were categorized as a subset of "motorized bicycles" rather than as a subset of "bicycles". Last year Cam Gordon, Ward 2 Council Member, introduced an amendment to the City's pedicab ordinance to allow electric-assist (no larger than 750 Watts) pedicabs but it was pushed aside. He is seeking a letter of support to change the ordinance to take before the City Council.

Beekman and Cam Gordon then entertained questions (reference the 1-page Electric-Assist Pedicab Fact Sheet distributed at the meeting). Gordon agreed to send to Rock the amended ordinance for reference.

*Swan moved and Cichowicz seconded a motion to write a letter in support of changing the City's ordinance to allow electric-assist pedicabs. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### V. Land Use Report

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer introduced the following:

- **Butcher & The Boar (1121 Hennepin Avenue).** Tim Rooney of Hennepin Avenue Realty LLC and co-owner of The Butcher & The Boar distributed a 4-page existing/proposed site/floor plan of the garage structure adding a new men's and women's bathroom as well as a 150 sq. ft. addition to house a kitchen for the beer garden in response to booming business. Their first year anniversary was on March 7, 2013 and they have been very successful to date. They applied to the Heritage Preservation Commission for a Certificate of Appropriateness and are seeking a letter of support.

Cori Kuechenmeister of Shea Inc. advised that since this is an accessory structure to a non-contributing structure in the historic Harmon Place Historic District, a Certificate of Appropriateness

is required. They will continue the CMU (concrete masonry unit) block structure and the garage with the 1-story addition will go from 440 sq. ft. to 590 sq. ft. within the existing space. The bathrooms were at code compliancy but they wanted to upgrade to alleviate the large crowds gathering in the restaurant. This does not change the maximum occupancy, i.e., 250.

*Ewald moved and Swan seconded a motion to support the Certificate of Appropriateness application for The Butcher & The Boar. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## VI. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

- ***Appointment of electors and alternate electors for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission elections.*** Ewald explained that the DMNA needed to select an elector and alternate elector from each of its neighborhoods for the June 13, 2013 commissioner elections. For more information visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-106113>.

*Sweet moved and Ewald seconded a motion to appoint Kathleen Anderson as elector for Downtown East and Andy Hauer as elector for Downtown West. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

*Ewald moved and Sweet seconded a motion to appoint Andrea Christenson as alternate elector for Downtown East and Eric Laska as alternate elector for Downtown West. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## VII. NRP Implementation Update

- ***Friends of Triangle Park.*** Rock advised that she heard back from Dean Jacobson who informed her that the FTP board is in favor on DMNA's conditions placed on the award, i.e., \$2,000 per year for the next 3 years to be used for planting materials that are more permanent in nature versus those that may only last one season and/or benches and signage acknowledging the DMNA's participation. They are also required to provide documentation/receipts on how they funds were spent. The contract is in process with Bob Cooper of the City's Finance Department.
- ***Continued discussion on homelessness.*** Laska referenced his notes from the Housing Committee meeting held with Monica Nilsson on April 4, 2013 and explained what they had decided based on Nilsson's close association with the entities involved with this problem (i.e., the City; her former boss, Mikkel Beckmen, who is now director of Heading Home Hennepin; the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District; the Minneapolis Downtown Council). Since the DID and the DTC are now aligned, they tentatively agreed to match the City's \$150,000 grant toward the St. Stephen's Outreach Program. As a consequence, the Housing Committee agreed that once Nilsson provides up-to-date information on the level of engagement of the respective entities, the DMNA would reach out to the DTC via a letter to determine whether they are still engaging in the program with the City. The Housing Committee also agreed that once it was determined the DTC is still engaged and committed to matching the City's grant, the DMNA would then reach out to other organizations, neighborhoods and individuals and challenge them to match/contribute to the grant.

Ewald referenced Rock's email of April 1, 2013 wherein she explained how much was available in NRP Phase II funds to address homelessness (the 60% of \$139,000 or \$83,400) and what these funds could be used for (support youth outreach) and what they could not be used for (general administrative costs). Winkler expressed a desire to have consensus of the entities involved for the use of the funds and volunteered to speak with Mark Stenglein. Further discussion ensued regarding putting money towards programming versus towards housing (the \$300,000 available in the Housing Opportunities Fund) and the rationale for pursuing this action, i.e., the City's desire for expanded hours of outreach, the need to educate the public, and the desire to collaborate with other downtown entities who are currently engaged.

Laska will follow up with Nilsson for more information about the tentative match from the

DID/DTC and whether she'll need a letter of support for beds in the basement at YouthLink. Ewald requested of Winkler, since he will be speaking with Stenglein, to also try and forge a membership on the homelessness or the crime and safety committees/task forces of the DTC.

**VIII. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from March 12, 2013**

*Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the March 12, 2013 board meeting minutes. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with Winkler abstaining.*

**IX. Consideration of Financial Report as of March 2013**

*Hauer moved and Sweet seconded a motion to receive and file the Financial Report as of March 2013. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**X. Consideration of March Staff Report**

*Sweet moved and Laska seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report for the period 03-09-13 to 04-05-13. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**XI. Old business / new business / other business**

- **Consideration of neighborhood appointees to Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee.** Ewald reiterated what Anita Tabb had instructed earlier, that the DMNA would need to select a representative from each of its neighborhoods.

*Ewald moved and Hauer seconded a motion to appoint Nick Cichowicz as the Downtown East appointee and Carletta Sweet as the Downtown West appointee to the Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

- **Update on outreach and collaboration with other downtown organizations.** Reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart and attachments emailed from Sweet in advance of the meeting.
  - **Identifying DMNA representative for upcoming Court Watch.** Reconfirmed that Cichowicz will attend the May meeting, Laska will attend the June meeting, Sweet will attend the July meeting, and tentatively Swan will attend the August meeting.

**XII. Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary