

# DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 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 5:18 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

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

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Craig Bentsdahl, Marin Restaurant  
Colin McCarty, Twin Town Pedicab

### II. Consideration of the Agenda

Since this meeting convened early following the adjournment of a special housing meeting immediately preceding it,

*Ewald moved and Sweet seconded a motion to amend the May 14, 2013 board meeting agenda by skipping to Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update and continuing forward until the arrival of the scheduled presenters. The motion passed.*

### III. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

Ewald advised that the 38th Annual Neighborhoods USA Conference hosted by the City of Minneapolis with local and national speakers is from May 22nd to 25th and that board member Nick Cichowicz and staff member Christie Rock would be attending and thanked them for doing so. For more information, visit <http://www.nusa.org/>.

### IV. NRP Implementation Update

- *Continued discussion regarding how the DMNA can have an impact on the issue of homelessness in the Downtown community.* Ewald asked for thoughts and takeaways from the special housing meeting with 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman, the City's Director of Housing and Policy Development Tom Streitz, and the City's Director of Multi-Family Housing Wes Butler who had provided the board

with ideas on how it could best use its NRP Phase II housing dollars to help address the issue of homelessness in the downtown community.

Hauer liked the suggestion to invite Heather Huseby, Executive Director at YouthLink, to talk about a housing development at YouthLink. He thinks it has potential and although the number of units is small, as in the case with Aeon, you can keep building until you're over 2,000 units. Hauer also extolled his preference for and the benefits of building permanent housing.

Hauer also thinks we should contact the folks who did the playground installation in North Loop and work with the Francis Drake Hotel. Rock has to ascertain if we could use NRP funds to purchase playground equipment for use on private property.

Swan indicated that as long as we work in collaboration with other groups to leverage our funds is the important thing. Laska stated that the appeal of YouthLink or Francis Drake is that they might have supportive programs involved, and he is not receptive to giving money to a developer and making maybe 10 units in a building because it would lack supportive programming for the youth. Cichowicz liked the idea of getting developers and the business community involved because it is something that doesn't happen on a regular basis and would jumpstart new ideas and thoughts.

As next steps to this board meeting discussion, Rock will contact Huseby at YouthLink to see if she would be interested in meeting with the DMNA Board to discuss a capital project. She will also check with Bob Cooper at CPED Development Finance to see if the DMNA could contribute to the cost of a playground on private property.

**V. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2013**

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

**VI. Consideration of Financial Report as of May 2013 and 2012 Attorney General Charitable Organization Report**

*Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to receive and file the Financial Report as of May 2013 and approve the Attorney General Charitable Organization Report and \$25 filing fee. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**VII. Consideration of April Staff Report**

*Hauer moved and Laska seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report for the period 04-10-13 to 05-10-13. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## VIII. Old business / new business / other business

- ***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.
- ***Discussion regarding board meeting location.*** Hauer, who has been reserving the Board's meeting room at the Hennepin County Central Public Library, inquired as to whether the board would like to continue to meet there or wished to look at other locations within the Downtown West and Downtown East neighborhoods. Discussion ensued regarding holding a few meetings in the Mill District area of Downtown East. There was also discussion about the value of keeping the meeting location consistent for the sake of the many developers who give presentations at board meetings for at least 11 out of the 12 board meetings with the annual meeting being held elsewhere. Board members were encouraged to forward their suggestions for the alternate location for the annual meeting. Thereafter,

*Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to hold eleven of its meetings at the Hennepin County Central Public Library and to hold the annual meeting at another location. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

- ***Continued discussion regarding sponsoring the Mayoral forum on June 6th.*** Laska noted that this forum would occur prior to the next board meeting and that if the DMNA planned to make a financial contribution, the Board should approve a motion at the instant meeting.

*Laska moved and Hauer seconded a motion to contribute up to \$250 for expenses incurred in conjunction with the June 6, 2013 Mayoral forum. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## IX. Continued discussion regarding the Electric Assist Pedicab

Ewald introduced Colin McCarty from Twin Town Pedicab. Ewald explained that after Rock submitted the letter of support for the electric assist pedicab ordinance, she received an email from Council Member Goodman asking whether the DMNA Board had heard both sides of the issue. She suggested that McCarty be invited to the May board meeting to give his perspective on the proposed ordinance change.

McCarty provided an explanation on how electric assist pedicabs work. He noted that when used properly, they could be very beneficial to drivers, e.g., in hillier cities. Unfortunately, he believes there is also the potential for pedicab operators to take advantage of the electric assist and use it inappropriately. This can lead to dangerous situations on the road for pedestrians, vehicles and pedicabs themselves. He suggested that perhaps Bill Beekman who presented at the April DMNA Board meeting is in love with the idea of electric assist, but is not aware of the reality. McCarty stated that he does not support the ordinance change. After discussion ensued,

*Swan moved and Cichowicz seconded a motion to rescind the DMNA's support of the Electric Assist Pedicab Ordinance. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with five board members in favor, two opposed, and Winkler abstaining.*

**X. Land Use Report**

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer introduced the following:

*Marin Restaurant (901 Hennepin Avenue in the Chambers Hotel).* Craig Bentsdahl, the owner of Marin Restaurant introduced himself to the board. He explained his restaurant background, mentioning that he also owns Mill Valley Kitchen in Saint Louis Park. He provided more details about the proposed new Marin Restaurant and stated that the name comes from Marin County, California, which is located north of San Francisco. The restaurant will feature northern California, farm-to-table cuisine. The food will be fresh and local. He noted that they are completely renovating the building and are seeking the board's support for a Class E liquor license.

*Christenson moved and Winkler seconded a motion to approve the Class E liquor license for Marin Restaurant. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**XI. Adjournment**

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary