

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Open Book

1011 Washington Avenue S., Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Welcome

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

Andrea Christenson
Nicholas Cichowicz
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
Eric Laska, Treasurer
Wally Swan, Secretary
Carletta Sweet
Jesse Winkler, Vice Chair

DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Guest speakers in attendance included:

Reneé Allen, MPD 1st Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist
Medaria Arradondo, MPD Commander of Internal Affairs
Jacob Frey, 3rd Ward City Council candidate
Lisa Goodman, 7th Ward City Council Member
Kristina Gronquist, 3rd Ward City Council candidate
Diane Hofstede, 3rd Ward City Council candidate
Michael Katch, 3rd Ward City Council candidate
Sarah McKenzie, *The Journals*
Bryan Schafer, MPD 1st Precinct Inspector

Ewald welcomed the audience to the 2013 DMNA Annual Meeting and extended thanks to Joe Skifter of Open Book for the use of their facility and to JJ's Coffee + Wine Bistro for providing refreshments.

Ewald then read the meaning of the verb "change" and explained that this year we've seen changes both locally and globally but that tonight he would focus on changes that are very close to the DMNA, i.e.: the election of four board members; the candidates forum for the newly redistricted 3rd Ward City Council seat; and the new Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) process. He introduced Jeanne Massey, Executive Director of FairVote Minnesota and noted that she and her associate have a booth in the lobby to provide information regarding RCV. He encouraged everyone to become familiar with the new voting method before Election Day on November 5.

He then went on to talk about the DMNA and explained that it is the official organization for the Downtown East and Downtown West neighborhoods and quoted its mission statement. The DMNA represents the interests of nearly 40,000 people who live, work, and/or own property in

the downtown community, conducts monthly meetings, supports neighborhood improvement projects, and reviews and comments on commercial and residential proposals and projects that are making their way through the City approval process.

II. 2013 Accomplishments

Ewald began by stating that the DMNA Board has been very pleased to see presentations on a large number of new projects in the Downtown neighborhood: from additional rental housing and condominium units to a proposed mixed-use development near the new Viking's Stadium. These housing, retail and entertainment opportunities are sure to enhance the vibrancy of our downtown community. The DMNA especially appreciates the time, dedication and hard work of the City leaders who have the vision and determination to help these projects become reality.

During the past year the DMNA has been asked to review a variety of projects from simple signage variances to large-scale developments, e.g.:

- Supported LEED standards in relation to planning and design of the new Viking's Stadium;
- Reviewed signage variances and liquor license requests for a variety of new and expanding Downtown dining and entertainment establishments and businesses;
- Reviewed and supported the new Mill City Quarter project on 2nd Street; and
- Planned and co-hosted the Vikings Stadium/Ryan Companies Downtown East office and condo development presentation in June.

Ewald also stated that the DMNA provided financial support to the following initiatives:

- \$6,500 for the Mill City Farmers Market;
- \$10,000 for the Pediatric Literacy Program at HCMC;
- \$13,000 for additional lighting on 4th Street in the Warehouse District; and
- \$6,000 to the Friends of Triangle Park for additional permanent plantings and a bench.

Ewald noted that DMNA Board members serve as liaisons to numerous organizations working to improve the safety and livability of the downtown community, including the following groups:

- Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
- Downtown Court Watch
- Downtown Minneapolis Elementary School Initiative
- East Downtown Council
- Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., and the Mill District Neighborhood Association
- Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership
- Washington Avenue (County Road 152) Redesign Project
- 2020 Partners
- 2025 Plan Residential Task Force

Ewald then introduced the current DMNA Board of Directors and gave special thanks to staff person Christie Rock Hantge for all her organizational and behind-the-scenes efforts. He then presented a plaque to outgoing DMNA Board member Andy Hauer who received special

recognition because of the countless volunteer hours he has given to the downtown community and to the DMNA as a board member since 1997 and as a board member to its predecessor, the Downtown Minneapolis Residents Association.

Andy thanked the audience for attending and said it has been a privilege to have been a partner with Paul Barber, George Rosenquist and others in founding the organization and to have participated in and witnessed the growth and development that has occurred in Downtown East and Downtown West over the years.

III. 7th Ward Update

Ewald introduced 7th Ward Council Member Lisa Goodman noting that since 1997 when she was first elected, she has been re-elected to her position three times and has been a strong advocate for community planning and economic development for both her Ward and the City at large.

Goodman advised that it has been her great pleasure and privilege to serve this Ward and there isn't a thing that's happened in the City and the 7th Ward that she hasn't been intimately involved in, bad or good. When she is on your side she can probably be your best advocate, but when she is standing up for her constituents and she is not on your side, she might end up being your worst nightmare. That is what representative democracy is about; representing the people who elect you, not being part of the larger establishment 100 percent of the time and that is how she chooses to do her job.

Goodman explained what has been accomplished over the past 16 years. When first elected to the City Council she was 31 years old and had lived in the city less than a decade. She came from Chicago and moved downtown and her view was that there was so much low hanging fruit and so many things that could be done. She lived in a part of downtown that had no grocery store; today there are three in downtown. When first elected the Milwaukee Road Depot was literally a depot with tracks in place and mud on the ground; today there are two hotels and a year-round event and wedding venue. Everything from the Carlyle Condominiums on the west to Gold Medal Park on the east has her stamp on them.

Collectively, the vision of the people who live and have moved in the area has made downtown what it is; a downtown that has more people than Denver, Dallas and Detroit combined. We want to see density, development and transit without subsidizing much of it. We have a visionary, not a desperate, attitude that comes from a really strong Midwestern sense of values that we can do better and we don't need government to do everything, just lay out a plan and in the end development will come. As a result, the redistricting has come from our success.

Goodman then explained the redistricting process, her new Ward boundaries, and why she was in support of it. It is a lot of work for one person to represent 35,000 constituents, another 180,000 workers, half a million visitors, all of the different businesses and, in her case, almost all of Lake of the Isles. This will be her last time she'll stand before the DMNA representing the 7th Ward as it is configured today. She is running for re-election in the newly redistricted 7th Ward and has no opponent.

In conclusion, Goodman thanked the DMNA Board for its committed volunteers who come to meetings, serve on task forces, and communicate with the City all for free; their work is greatly appreciated and she is honored to have worked with so many and to receive their support over the

years.

IV. Comments from Another Elected Official

Ewald introduced Bobby Joe Champion, Minnesota State Senator for District 59, who apologized for not being on the agenda and advised that he assumed his position in January 2013 and just prior to that he was our Minnesota State Representative for District 58B from January 2009-2013. Champion has enjoyed working with members of the DMNA as well as the other parts of the district that he represents. He believes it is important to always have a strong voice in the state legislature and that he isn't the only person there to chime in, ask what's going on, and to listen. Then he asked the audience to welcome Minnesota State Representative Phyllis Kahn for District 60B who was also in attendance.

Champion then advised that all that Council Member Goodman said was true. She's been a wonderful asset and advocate for downtown and that they have been joined at the hip on so many things.

Lastly, Champion thanked the DMNA Board for working so diligently on behalf of downtown and offered his services as our representative at the state legislator.

V. Elections to DMNA Board of Directors

Ewald moderated the DMNA elections. There were four seats each with 2-year terms and seven candidates: Andrea Christenson (incumbent); Chad DiDonato (607 Washington Lofts); Laurie Jones (The Whitney Residences); Claudia Kittock (The Bridgewater Lofts); Matt McNeill (RiverWest); George Rosenquist (The Crossings) who was not in attendance; and Peter Zenner (The Bridgewater Lofts). Each was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and explain why they wished to serve on the DMNA Board.

Ewald then called for nominations from the floor. With no additional nominations offered, Ewald closed the nominations.

Thereafter, Ewald invited the DMNA membership to vote. Once voting was completed, outgoing DMNA Board members Andy Hauer and Nicholas Cichowicz collected the ballots and outgoing DMNA Board member Eric Laska and staff person Christie Rock Hantge tabulated the votes.

VI. 3rd Ward City Council Candidates Forum

Ewald introduced *The Journals* Editor Sarah McKenzie who served as moderator for the 3rd Ward City Council Candidates Forum. She has been the Editor of *The Journals* since 2006, is on the board of the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists, has a weekly news segment at Fox 9 on Mondays, and is an Adjunct instructor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Minnesota. To watch the forum in its entirety, please click on the following link: <http://millcitytimes.com/news/video-of-the-final-3rd-ward-candidate-debate.html>.

VII. Crime and Safety Report

Ewald introduced First Precinct Inspector Bryan Schafer who announced that as of the first of November he would be leaving the department to take the Police Chief position with the City of Hastings, Minnesota. Then he introduced his successor, Medaria Arradondo, who stated that he is honored to come into a precinct where Schafer's leadership and strategies in reducing crime has made it more livable and vibrant for everybody; is very important to him. Arradondo explained that he was born and raised in Minneapolis then gave a snapshot of his 24 plus years career with the Minneapolis Police Department. He is looking forward to continuing the great work Inspector Bryan Schafer and the men and women of the First Precinct have done.

Thereafter, Schafer thanked the audience for its support over the past year and commented that he is very pleased with what's happened downtown within the Downtown Improvement District / SafeZone: there has been a 6% decrease in violent crime; and an 11% reduction in nighttime violent crime. And even though the precinct as a whole has about the same amount of crime as it had last year, the increases have occurred outside the DID/SafeZone, i.e., in the North Loop, Elliot Park and Loring Park.

Their summer 2013 strategy involved doubling staffing at night and their daytime focus was on Nicollet Mall to make it safe for businesses, employees, and visitors. In partnership with the Youth Coordinating Board, DID, summer interns, school resource officers, and the new youth outreach tent at the Nicollet Mall Farmers Market, they were able to achieve a reduction in juvenile crime by 50%. Another area of focus was the Warehouse District at bar close. This past year there were only two incidents and they were followed up with very strict repercussions and setting down the rules to prevent incidents recurring in the future.

Schafer then entertained a few questions from the audience.

VIII. Election Announcement

Ewald returned to the podium to announce and congratulate the newly elected board members: Chad DiDonato, Laurie Jones, Claudia Kittock and Peter Zenner. He also thanked outgoing board members Andrea Christenson, Andy Hauer, Eric Laska and Wally Swan. He thanked Open Book once again for hosting and JJ's Coffee + Wine Bistro for providing refreshments. Last but not least, he thanked the audience for coming and encouraged them to attend DMNA board meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

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

IX. Adjournment

Being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2013

Chair _____

Secretary _____