

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, August 8, 2016
St. Olaf Catholic Church, Flemming Hall Foyer
215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Nick Cichowicz called the Board meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Dan Collison
Kevin Frazell
Laurie Jones
Pamela McCrea, Treasurer
Travis Nordgaard
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Joe Tamburino, Vice Chair

Staff member Joan Bennett was also present, but Christie Rock Hantge was not.

Guests in attendance included:

Laura Boyd, Alcohol Compliance Services
Jacob Frey, 3rd Ward Council Member
Ed Horton, eagle BOLT bar
Mark Lucas, Abiitan Mill City
Deepak Nath, Empire Entertainment LLC, Lumber Exchange Event Center
Cynthia Prosek, Restorative Justice Community Action
Thomas Schmidt, Washburn Lofts
Doug Verdier, RiverWest Condominium
Dale White, RiverWest Condominium

II. Public Comment

Cichowicz opened the floor for public comment, but none was given.

III. Consideration of the Agenda

Cichowicz advised Council Member Jacob Frey would not be attending.

Frazell moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the August 8, 2016 Board meeting agenda as amended to exclude the update from CM Frey. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Consideration of the Consent Agenda

Sweet moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda that included the Board meeting minutes from June 20, 2016; the Finance Coordinator's staff report for June 2016 (Invoice 018); and the Outreach and Programming Coordinator's staff report for June 2016 (Invoice 018) and July 2016

(Invoice 019). Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Financial Report

McCrea reported on the F2016 Budget vs. Actual as of July 2016 and noted the month of June had the least amount of expenditure she's seen since she's been on the Board. She then inquired about the fiscal agent administrative fee connected to the North Star Lofts Legacy Grant; the amount of the fee is apparently coming in and going out with no documentation as to how Rock Hantge is paid. After input from Cichowicz and Jones, McCrea will follow up with Rock Hantge and report back to the Board. Then she recommended establishing a protocol for when the DMNA is acting as the fiscal agent to ensure appropriate oversight of the process is given.

McCrea moved and Sweet seconded a motion to receive and file the Financial Report that included F2016 Budget vs. Actual as of July 2016. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Restorative Justice Community Action

Cichowicz advised the DMNA was a founding partner of the [now defunct] Central City Neighborhoods Partnership and worked with it and other organizations to implement and fund the Restorative Justice Program in downtown Minneapolis. CCNP Restorative Justice evolved into what is now known as Restorative Justice Community Action (<http://www.rjca-inc.org/>). His personal experience began approximately 10 years ago when he served on RJCA's board and as a facilitator for several years; thus he is a strong proponent of the organization and for downtown residents to volunteer as community members and facilitators. Today's presentation stems from a public safety/public realm action item that evolved from last year's DMNA strategic planning sessions. It is also an opportunity to introduce the newer Board members to the program and its current Executive Director.

After distributing a RJCA FY16 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016) Report and 3 Year Case Report-RJCA downtown Minneapolis, RJCA Executive Director Cynthia Prosek gave an overview of the organization and explained the data.

Back in the 1990s when all of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program funds were available, five downtown core neighborhoods (i.e., Downtown East/West, Elliot Park, Loring Park, North Loop, Stevens Square) joined together to figure out how to address livability issues. In 2005, when the program expanded beyond these neighborhoods, they formed the nonprofit RJCA. It is now a Hennepin County-wide program.

The first case was in 1997; since then they have conducted almost 4,000 adult cases. Youth cases began in 2010. For RJCA's 2016 fiscal year, Prosek reported on the cases that occurred in the 1st Precinct:

- Thirteen youth cases: 12 for theft; 2 for false information; 4 in other (i.e., trespass, curfew, gambling, fleet on foot).
- Sixty-one adult cases: 79% in Downtown; 11% in Loring Park; 10% in other areas (i.e., 2 each in Elliot Park, North Loop, West Bank/Cedar Riverside).

The top three offenses are public urination at 20, public consumption/open bottle at 17, and

then loiter with intent/drug paraphernalia at 12.

Prosek then explained how RJCA's program works. When someone is cited by a police officer for a low level/eligible offense, they are given the opportunity to be diverted by a liaison representative from the City Attorney's Office to RJCA's Community Conferencing Process (<http://www.rjca-inc.org/index.php/637-2/>) versus going to court and paying a fine. There are 3 trained volunteer facilitators and 23 community members who participated in cases this past year in the 1st Precinct, and they conduct at least 1-2 cases per month.

Some of the agreements for public urination in downtown have been very creative; community members are responsible for giving voice to these agreements. RJCA has conducted research on public facilities in downtown and sent it to CM Jacob Frey.

It costs \$450 for RJCA to process each case and they are compensated by the City for just over half of that amount, requiring them to seek the remaining funds from partners. Prosek acknowledged the substantial funds the DMNA has contributed in the earlier stages of the program.

Prosek then entertained questions from the Board during which she described how community members are chosen (i.e., word of mouth, via observation of training); the need for more community members and facilitators (currently have 120 and 30 respectively); how they are facilitating a conversation between Deputy Chief Arradondo and an individual who was cited for obstructing justice via the new Interact Program (<http://kstp.com/news/interact-program-minneapolis-offers-offenders-of-police-obstruction-second-chance/4132212/>); how they facilitated conversations around race in North Minneapolis last year; and how they will be outreaching to the Latino community in North Minneapolis as other means to building productive relationships between police and civilians.

For additional background information, visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@council/documents/webcontent/convert_279058.pdf.

VII. Third Ward Update

Council Member Jacob Frey, who was able to attend after all, responded to the following topics:

- *Temporary Game Day Closure of Park and Portland Avenues at the Commons.* Although he is in favor of closing the streets around the Commons for significant events in order to have a cohesive unit and be able to walk across without getting hit, Frey did receive legitimate push back on: (1) potential loss of Minnesota Highway Users Tax Distribution (<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/admin/sa-hutdf-2016.pdf>) funds for Park and Portland Avenues (Hennepin County Roads 33 and 35 respectively) based upon the distance from the Mississippi River to South 5th Street; and (2) loss of accessibility to Hennepin County Medical Center. As it stands today, the strategy is to have those streets closed on significant events, see how the traffic flow works, see how accessibility to HCMC works, and then see if there is a way to convince the state that they don't necessarily have to lose all of the funds, just a percentage that equates to the distance from the riverfront to the Commons/South 5th Street.

Collison noted he authored a June 2nd letter to MN Vikings EVP Lester Bagley on behalf of the East Downtown Council in support of a test of temporary game day closures. HCMC's

Marketing Director, who serves on the EDC (now the East Town Business Partnership) Board, although not speaking on behalf of HCMC, had indicated a willingness to try it out on Sundays.

- *The Commons* (<http://www.commonsmpls.com/>). The Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District has been a huge success in operating and maintaining this choreographed space. Frey is in support of expanding the DID, but at some point it will be relieved of its responsibilities for the Commons and operations and maintenance will be assumed by Green Minneapolis.

McCrea praised the work of the DID workers and recommended changing the small rocks in the dog relief area to a different material.

VIII. Licenses and Consumer Services Report

Laura Boyd from Alcohol Compliance Services introduced the following projects:

- A. eagle BOLT bar Expansion Project, 515 Washington Avenue South.** In order to raise its visibility and capture more customers attending stadium events, Ed Horton, the owner, is looking to expand his current outdoor patio space of approximately 1,525 square feet to 1,883 square feet by removing a few parking stalls and extending it into the rear of his adjacent parking lot at 517 Washington Avenue South.

Tanek's (<http://tanek.com/>) architectural site plan calls for a new entry door to the restaurant on Washington Avenue, an 8-foot-high, black chain link fence around the perimeter to control ingress/egress from eBb as well as from the adjacent [Allied Parking] surface parking lot to the east at Portland Avenue, and a 5 foot wide strip of landscaping to the southeast with just above human height trees for privacy and beautification.

Horton explained he purchased 513 Washington Avenue South in 1998 when it was called the Mill Inn and renamed it Minneapolis Eagle. He subsequently purchased the adjacent building at 515 Washington Avenue South that came with an outdoor patio and combined the two into what is now known as the eagle BOLT bar (<http://www.eagleboltbar.com/>).

Thereafter, Horton responded to questions from the Board and audience during which he advised Tanek conducted a code analysis and determined eBb has sufficient bathroom capacity to support the increase in customers. There are two exterior security cameras, footage from which led to the immediate capture of perpetrators who assaulted customers in the parking lot due to eBb's full cooperation with the Minneapolis Police Department. And, as in the case with Cowboy Slim's in Uptown, Horton had considered expanding patio space onto the second floor of each building's rooftop; however, due to the expenses related to elevator accessibility, it isn't feasible at this time.

In closing, Horton advised the neighborhood is changing and eBb will change with it. Business has been down due to all the recent construction in the neighborhood and the recent soccer match between Associazione Calcio Milan and Chelsea Football Club was a test. It was fascinating to have youth along with their parents as customers that evening and business was brisk. The eBb will continue to market to its main group, but in order to survive and fit into the neighborhood it will adapt to the changing environment.

Sweet moved and Tamburino seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for eagle BOLT bar's project to expand its outdoor patio space. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

- B. Abiitan Mill City, 428 South 2nd Street.** Displaying a site plan, Mark Lucas, Business Development Director at Ecumen® (<http://www.ecumen.org/>) explained this 5-story, senior housing facility (<http://abiitan.org/>) is seeking an on-sale Class E liquor license (http://www.minneapolismn.gov/licensing/alcohol/business-licensing_liquor_entertainment_classes) with no live entertainment for the ground floor dining area and two adjoining outdoor cafés at the southwest area of the property [facing the woonerf]. They are working with Patrick Weber from Mise En Place Consulting (<http://www.miseenplaceconsulting.com/>) who has worked on Smack Shack and Birch's on the Lake in Long Lake, Minnesota, to develop a consistent, high-quality menu. The goal is to be a vibrant neighborhood dining resource.

Addressing RiverWest resident Doug Verdier's concerns over potential noise issues stemming from live music as indicated on the instant agenda, Boyd and Lucas explained they never contemplated live music outdoors, just indoors, unless it is resident-driven and/or programmed through MacPhail Center for Music.

Sweet moved and Frazell seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for Abiitan Mill City's application for an on-sale Class E liquor license. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

- C. Lumber Exchange Event Center, 10 South 5th Street.** Deepak Nath and partners, owners of The Poorhouse Restaurant (<http://thepourhousempls.com/>), and with landlord Ken Sherman as a co-owner of the subterranean Exchange Nightclub and Alibi Lounge (<http://theexchangempls.com/>), both of which are within the historic Lumber Exchange Building (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lumber_Exchange_Building), are seeking an on-sale Class A liquor license to transform the current Fountain Room (<http://www.thefountainroommpls.com/>) into a full blown event center with a full catering kitchen onsite.

Nath explained the opportunity presented itself last year to take over and restore the architecture of this 130-year-old, 8-story atrium with skylight space. The primary business for this space will be wedding events. Friday and Sunday weddings are becoming more prevalent, and for the other days of the week it will have the ability to host everything from lunches to book signings, shows, concerts and anything between. They need the Class A liquor license to accommodate whatever requests customers may have. They have been operating in the LE since 2012, and have been well received by the community as well as the landlord.

Thereafter, Nath responded to questions from the Board during which Tamburino disclosed his law firm is the oldest tenant in the LE (i.e., since 1970) on a long-term lease, expressed concern over the overtaxing of the three elegant passenger elevators, and queried what plans there are for a freight elevator to accommodate the event center. Nath explained there is an operational freight elevator they've been using, but because there is so much construction going on in the building, he does not believe 100% of the overtaxing is a result of their events. The landlord, Ken Sherman, builds out each space for tenants, charges rent accordingly, and utilizes the passenger elevators.

Parking is available next door via skyway connection in the 7-story Midtown Parking Ramp

at 11 South 4th Street and their events typically occur during off-peak times. Other options include several surface parking lots nearby, and the skyway-connected Municipal Parking Ramps A, B and C a few blocks away.

Initially the caterers they used were Agra Culture Catering and Green Mill Catering. Now, everything will be done in-house with an executive chef. Nath's partners own Jester Concepts (<http://jesterconcepts.com/>) which operate a variety of restaurants and, as a consequence, have extensive culinary experience. For more information about these venues, visit <http://www.eventsbyempireentertainment.com/>.

Nath explained he is familiar with and is aware of Ned Abdul's project to overhaul the Minneapolis Armory into an event center; Abdul's horizon is the Super Bowl and the scale is 10 times larger than the LEEC's space. The Minneapolis Convention Center and Aria are its closest competitors.

The closest competitors to the LEEC include The Depot in the Mill District, Minneapolis Event Centers directly across the river in Southeast Minneapolis, and two hotel venues opening this fall in downtown, i.e., AC Hotel by Marriott and Embassy Suites Minneapolis (in the historic Plymouth Building). Because the latter two hotels have limited event space, both will afford LEEC an opportunity to serve those needs, and because there are two other businesses in the LE, events at the LEEC will help and support those businesses; it is a natural development of the business model by having complementary business offerings.

Tamburino moved and Sweet seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for the Lumber Exchange Event Center's on-sale Class A liquor license application and to include language recommending use of the freight elevator. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Land Use Committee Report

Outreach and Program Coordinator Joan Bennett reported on the following:

- A. Ryan Companies Office Tower at 728 South 4th Street.** This proposed 17-story project is to be erected on the Liner Parcel and Air Rights at the Block 1 Parking Ramp across from U.S. Bank Stadium. At the July 5th LUC meeting, it received overall design criticism and, according to Randy Manthey who attended their presentation at the City on July 21st, similar criticism from the Committee of the Whole. Ryan is expected to return to the LUC with updated plans incorporating feedback it received from each respective organization.

As a result of this exercise, the LUC will implement a new procedure during the review process, i.e., gather comments from the early meeting with developers and forward them to the COW for reference with it conducts its review of the project.

- B. Samatar Crossing (5th Street Ramp Reconnection) Project.** Working with Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., to conduct a joint forum on this proposed multimodal street connection (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/2016/WCMSP-173830>) and provide perspective from the downtown side of the thoroughfare. Discovered the City is fairly along in the process; however, although it has been working closely with the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, it has not brought either Elliot Park or Downtown East into the process

C. Dog Relief Best Practices. At the August 1st LUC meeting, received an overview of dog relief management practices from EPNI BLUH Committee Member and Dog Grounds Board Member (<http://www.doggrounds.com/>) Daniel Quirk. He explained the difference between a dog park – an off-leash recreation area in a controlled environment under the supervision of their owners, and dog relief areas – a designated area covered in materials for relief and owners are expected clean up afterwards with materials provided at the site. The former can cost approximately \$100,000 to install and approximately \$3,000 to maintain annually, and the latter is minimal in comparison and varies according to materials used. Although he does not own a pet himself, several years ago Quirk joined the nonprofit which operates three in downtown, i.e.: (1) Gateway Park at 4th Avenue South, between 10th and 11th Streets South; (2) Loring Park at north corner of Loring Park; and (3) North Loop Park at North 3rd Street and 8th Avenue North. Quirk and EPNI Executive Director Lynn Regnier are proponents of having both external and internal dog relief areas incorporated into development projects.

Bennett advised next steps include assembling a letter about short-term improvements for the Commons to encourage people to use its dog relief area, and longer term to work with the downtown neighborhoods to develop solid policy recommendations.

No action was required by the Board on these items. The next LUC meeting is on Tuesday, September 6th, 6 p.m., location to be determined. The topic will likely be Mortenson Construction's mixed-use development at 800 Washington Avenue South. They are returning to provide an update on the design which includes adding another story to the development.

Cichowicz then asked for feedback on how the LUC is working; comments received were favorable.

X. Miscellaneous Business

A. Annual Meeting Planning Group Update. Referencing the Draft 2016 Annual Meeting Agenda and Content document, Jones explained the sequence of the meeting's agenda she and McCrea developed, i.e., over and above the administrative and election pieces, help ground people into what the DMNA has done in the past in terms of funding and programming, what it has accomplished this year, and what the future looks like because the DMNA is evolving from a funding/programming organization to a more advocacy organization. It's important to help people understand how they can get involved, what it means to be involved, what its value proposition is to the community.

McCrea proposed paying former Board member Peter Zenner to: (1) pull together unused video clips of last year's projects the DMNA continues to fund and film one to two testimonies; then (2) moving into the present, since we've been dominated by all of these construction projects, film some of these developments with emphasis on the work of the LUC; and (3) for the future having Mayor Hodges who has a vision for growing the downtown community which fits in nicely with what the DMNA has been doing, i.e., a sustainable community lifestyle with a mixture of people, places to go shopping and recreate.

Discussion ensued during which Frazell recommended asking the audience opinions about issues or fun questions and to vote online via their smartphones. Feedback from this exercise can be leveraged as a launching pad for next year's work plan.

Collison emphasized the need to have a backup speaker due to the difficulty in scheduling an elected official, i.e., someone from the Downtown Public Realm Framework, the City's contributing plan to the joint Pathways to Places initiative of the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, August 31st, 6 p.m., at Crooked Pint.

- B. Governance Group Update.** Tamburino, who had emailed the proposed changes to the Bylaws on August 9th, advised he is waiting for feedback. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed to review and take action on the proposed changes at the annual meeting planning session on August 31st and then based upon input by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, present them to the community in September and call for a vote at the annual meeting in October. In the meantime, forward comments and changes to Tamburino and McCrea in advance of the meeting on August 31st.
- C. Proposed Fall 2016 Forum Topics.** McCrea has recommended having a forum on either (1) candidates, or (2) property taxes this fall. For the latter, she explained representatives from the Minneapolis City Assessor's Office set up a table at the Bridgewater Lofts and knocked on doors to explain property taxes (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/assessor/propertytaxes/index.htm>). As a consequence, a head supervisor suggested finding a way to educate the community and give them a public forum. An individual in her building has agreed to help bring this off.

Sentiment expressed was toward the property tax forum to be held sometime later in the year/early winter. Jones volunteered to help.

- D. Police Substation Planning Update.** Tamburino advised he contacted Minneapolis Police Department 1st Precinct's Lt. Christopher House who expressed interest and who wants to see how much of DMNA's funds will go to Crime and Safety. Also, waiting to see whether the City selects the Sherman Associates' proposal for 205 Park Avenue which would make a substation space available.

Frazell requested having House come and present on C&S in downtown. Cichowicz also recommended having someone from the Downtown Improvement District's Tactical Urbanism Advisory Committee or Shane Zahn, Director of Safe Initiatives, come and present.

- E. DMNA Day at the Mill City Farmers Market.** Bennett requested volunteers from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. for this event on Saturday, August 27th. She will provide informational materials for distribution. Tamburino, Frazell and McCrea volunteered.
- F. Letter of Support for Test Game Day Road Closures.** Collison reiterated what he stated earlier under CM Frey's update, i.e., Lester Bagley reached out to the ETBP and asked whether it would support a test temporary game day closure on Park and Portland Avenues (reference the June 2nd letter he authored in support). Then he sought feedback from the Board during which Board members expressed support but Tamburino stressed the importance of hearing from first responders and HCMC before taking a stance.

Collison proposed sending an email to Tom Hayes of HCMC and ETBP Board member who expressed support to ask whether it's an issue for HCMC, and then once Hayes responds to revisit the matter at the September Board meeting.

XI. Downtown Partnerships Update

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. Cichowicz advised he is the newly elected secretary on the executive committee and going forward he will make periodic visits to the 10 neighborhoods he represents to update them on its work. Then he explained the role of NCEC (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/boards/ncec/nec_aboutus).

Most importantly, the funding cycle for 2020 and beyond is approaching, thus NCEC's top priority for the year is to receive feedback from the neighborhoods on what makes sense for the future and specific recommendations on ways in which the neighborhoods can continue to be funded at some level.

Cichowicz plans to form a task force to reach out to the neighborhoods to review the best practices and policies sitting around the NCR department and put this information online. NCEC will create a framework for neighborhoods to comment on these best practices and disseminate it to the community.

XII. Adjournment

Being no further business, Sweet moved and Frazell seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting for a closed personnel session. Cichowicz called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2016.

Chair

Secretary