

## **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2017

*Mill City Museum*

710 South 2nd Street, 6th Floor ADM Room

Minneapolis, MN 55415

### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Joe Tamburino called the Board meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jennifer Bernhardt  
Kevin Frazell  
Stephanie Hill  
Pamela McCrea, Vice Chair  
Travis Nordgaard  
Tomek Rajtar  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also in attendance.

Guests in attendance included:

Tim Bildsoe, North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Tom Novak, American Trio Lofts

### **II. Consideration of the Agenda**

*Walsh moved and Frazell seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **III. Consideration of the Consent Agenda**

*McCrea moved and Bernhardt seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Board meeting minutes dated May 25, 2017; the F2017 Budget vs. Actual for period ending May 30, 2017; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for May (Invoice #029). Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **IV. Land Use Committee Report**

Kevin Frazell reported on the following projects reviewed at the June 6th LUC meeting, none of which were controversial and, as a consequence, all were approved:

**A. Blarney Pub & Grill, 903 Washington Avenue South** (<https://www.blarneypubmn.com/downtown>). Presentation of application to expand licensed premises formerly occupied by

Dunn Brothers Coffee for an outdoor dining option and sidewalk café by owner Mike Mulrooney (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcm-sp-200454.pdf>). They hope to be open by the X Games at U.S. Bank Stadium July 13-16, 2017.

The LUC provided a letter of support for BP&G's expansion of premises application.

- B. Northern Coffeeworks, 1027 Washington Avenue South** (<https://www.facebook.com/northerncoffeeworks/>). On Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class C-2 License ([https://library.municode.com/mn/minneapolis/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=COOR\\_T114LIBE\\_CH362LILI\\_362.30SALI](https://library.municode.com/mn/minneapolis/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_T114LIBE_CH362LILI_362.30SALI)) application for the 2,300 square feet in the first floor space formerly occupied by Big Brain Comics by Director of Operations Kevin Burk (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcm-sp-199458.pdf>). He is working collaboratively with the owners of Angry Catfish Bicycle Shop + Coffee Bar (<http://angrycatfishbicycle.com/>) to open Northern Coffeeworks, but it will not have a bicycle shop. The space will include a 1,600 square foot café, plus 800 square feet of future expansion area for coffee roasting. They plan to serve craft coffee, tea, beer and wine and a small, brunch-focused menu. They are seeking a Class C-2 license because it will allow them the option to offer entertainment at occasional events. Although they also purchased the adjoining space at 1023 Washington Avenue South, the formerly Extensions Hair & Wigs Plus space, currently there are no plans for how this space will be utilized. LUC member Randy Manthey encouraged them to think about a cool outdoor seating similar to that at Bryant-Lake Bowl (<http://www.bryantlakebowl.com/>).

The LUC provided a letter of support for Northern Coffeeworks On Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class C-2 liquor license application.

- C. LuMINN Hotel Minneapolis / M Lounge at 219 South 4th Street.** Class B liquor license application for the M Lounge located in the lobby of the LuMINN Hotel, formerly the Federal Plaza Building, by Harshal Patel (<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/12/06/south-asian-indian-upscale-hoteliars-growing-twin-cities>). The lounge will cater to the guests staying in the 5-story, 55-room hotel, where the targeted clientele is upscale and rates range from \$200 to \$250 per night. Competitive properties include the Hotel Minneapolis and Chambers. Due to the limited size of the space, the intent is to provide an intimate experience for the hotel's guests, as opposed to attracting large crowds of patrons from outside. The lounge will be open from 3 p.m. to midnight from Sunday to Thursday, and 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. There will be no live entertainment, but the Class B license does allow dancing. They plan to have a limited menu that includes pizza, chicken wings and Panini. The name is a combination of luminous and Minnesota.

The LUC provided a letter of support for the M Lounge Class B liquor license application.

- D. United Properties at 651 Nicollet Mall.** Sign height variance application presentation by Sean Sowder, owner of SDDI Sign Systems (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcm-sp-201371.pdf>). Privately-held UP moved its headquarters from Bloomington into the 3rd and 4th floors of the formerly Saks Off 5th/Saks 5th Avenue space in Gaviidae Common ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaviidae\\_Common](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaviidae_Common)) it

purchased in June 2016, following its acquisition of the first and second floors in early 2015. The variance is to increase the maximum height of the signage to 46'6". Sowder advised it wasn't practical to put the signage at a lower height because UP doesn't have ownership in that location. The height variance will not alter the essential character of the building. Moreover, the sign design and height will not take away from the surrounding properties or be detrimental to the health or welfare of the public. SDDI is also doing YWCA's sign at the other end of the building.

The LUC provided a letter of support for the United Properties sign variance application.

- E. Dog Relief Discussion.** Frazell advised Ken Searl from the Gold Medal Park Conservancy (<http://www.goldmedalpark.org/conservancy/>) attended the LUC meeting and participated in the discussion regarding how Gold Medal Park is used by both humans and pets and how it is managed.

Frazell noted how GMP is not being used as intended, e.g., dogs allowed to relieve themselves without waste being removed and often not kept on leashes as required by City Ordinance ([http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@regservices/documents/webcontent/convert\\_285343.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@regservices/documents/webcontent/convert_285343.pdf)), hammocks hung from trees, and sculptures provided by the Walker Art Center treated as playground equipment.

According to Searl, the GMPC is conservative about how the park is governed and they intended the park to be a natural space without a lot of restrictive signage. Security cameras have recently been installed so that the Guthrie Theater could assist in monitoring public safety issues. However, because the GMPC only meets once a year, Frazell didn't get the impression it was actively managed and, as a consequence, Dianne Walsh and other committee members requested forming a partnership with the GMPC to manage the park given the more active use it is receiving as a result of the increased residential developments occurring in the neighborhood.

Walsh obtained Searl's contact information and she, Randy Manthey and Thomas Schmid will meet to discuss how to partner with the DMNA and neighborhood to support the park and educate the public through public service announcements in various media. The Commons (<http://www.commonsmpls.com/>), a public park owned by the City and managed by Green Minneapolis (<http://www.greenminneapolis.org/>), got ahead of issues related to its use including dog relief by working with the community and the DMNA needs to catch up.

## **F. Other Project Updates**

- 1. 800 Washington Avenue.** Mortenson Development Executive Jeremy Jacobs (<http://www.mortenson.com/development/people/jeremy-jacobs>) advised their option on the property runs through September 5, 2017 (<http://www.minneapolis.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-191744.pdf>) at which time the City will need to choose to renew or issue another Request For Proposal. According to Jacobs, Mortenson is committed to the project, but the reality is the hotel market has changed significantly since they were first awarded the project with new hotels coming on line and

they are having difficulty in lining up investors. Moreover, the American Academy of Neurology is no longer a part of the project which will affect how many stories the project will ultimately have.

2. **Renaissance Minneapolis Event Center Expansion.** The DMNA was supportive of this project and its only concern was the restoration of the landscaping along South 2nd Street. CSM Corporation has reaffirmed they are committed to completing it, but the banquet space has to be done first which is now underway.
3. **205 Park Avenue.** Sherman Associates will sign the development agreement with the City by mid August. Closing on the land sale is anticipated for February of 2018 with construction starting in April of 2018. SA has incorporated all of the amenities the DMNA has requested.

The next Land Use Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11th. One week later than normal, due to the 4th of July holiday.

#### V. **Old, New or Other Business**

- A. **Clean-up Days at Gold Medal Park and The Commons.** Tamburino asked the Board if they would be interested in hosting clean-up days at Gold Medal Park and/or The Commons, and possibly expanding the range to West River Road and Washington Avenue; he is looking for volunteers to start a committee. Bernhardt expressed interested and in wearing a fluorescent vest or identifiable DMNA gear, and talking with park visitors about park rules and policies. Tim Bildsoe, President of the North Loop Neighborhood Association, advised his organization already hosts a clean-up day along Washington Avenue from Hennepin to 10th Avenues North, and that they would be willing to collaborate with the DMNA. Volunteers could meet at Whole Foods on Washington Avenue, and then DMNA volunteers could collect trash to the east and NLNA volunteers could collect trash to the west. Bildsoe said the City will provide trash bags. The Minneapolis Downtown Council has helped promote it to their members, which has attracted volunteers from some of the larger downtown employers. Bildsoe will send information to Tamburino with the next date NLNA will be conducting a clean-up event and then Tamburino will follow up with the relevant parties.
- B. **Continued Discussion of Mayoral and CM Candidates Forums.** Tamburino advised due to the number of mayoral candidates' forums already on the schedule, candidates have been non-committal to the downtown neighborhoods event scheduled for October 12th. However, the City Council candidates' forum has received positive responses from all Ward 3 candidates. It will take place on September 12th at the Central Public Library with Tamburino serving as moderator. Bildsoe advised he's announcing his candidacy for CM this week. Rock Hantge will notify all of the Ward 3 neighborhoods about the forum.

#### VI. **Downtown Partnerships**

- **Crime and Safety.** Tamburino advised the Hennepin Avenue Safety Committee on which he serves is not meeting until this Wednesday, June 21st. When they last met they discussed how

many private businesses with surveillance cameras are signing up with Securonet (<https://www.securonet.net/>).

- **Water Works.** Sweet advised an update on this project will be given by Minneapolis Parks Foundation Executive Director Tom Evers and Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership Kathleen Boe before the East Town Development Group on Tuesday, June 20, 9 a.m., at Padilla, 1101 West River Parkway.

For a complete listing of the organizations and committees in which the DMNA is engaged, please reference the Outreach and Collaboration Chart prepared by Sweet included in the June 2017 Board materials on the DMNA's Website.

## VII. Adjournment

*Frazell moved and Sweet seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamburino called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.*

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary