

## **Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association**

### **Minutes from Board Meeting Tuesday, March 10, 2009 *Hennepin Center for the Arts* Room 310, Minneapolis, MN**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Other Board Members in attendance included Gerry Ewald; Andy Hauer; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Corey Kline; Scott Parkin, Vice Chair; and George Rosenquist.

Guests in attendance included Laura Boyd, Randy Norman and Vik Uppal representing Om Restaurant; Michelle Bruch, *Downtown Journal*; downtown resident Michael Katch; downtown resident Tom Melchior, and Katie Walker from Southwest Transitway.

Board member Natasha Heimer was unable to attend.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### **III. SOUTHWEST TRANSITWAY UPDATE**

Katie Walker from the Southwest Transitway organization gave an update on the proposed Southwest Light Rail Transit Line. She stated that the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) accepted the Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Scoping Summary Report on Jan. 27, 2009. This sets the scope for the environmental review process and clears the way for selecting the light rail transit (LRT) route.

Walker also reviewed the possible routes that HCRRA is considering. She indicated that the HCRRA anticipates selection of a preferred route by mid- year.

In addition, Walker requested that the DMNA board considering submitting a resolution of support for one of the proposed routes. Several board members asked about resolutions submitted by other neighborhood organizations. Walker stated that she would prepare a summary of the resolutions and send the information to DMNA staff member Christie Rock.

For more information regarding the Southwest Light Rail Transit Line go to <http://www.southwesttransitway.org/home.html>.

#### **IV. LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT**

- *Om Restaurant (401 First Avenue N.)* – Laura Boyd from Alcohol Compliance Services, along with restaurateur Randy Norman and Vik Uppal from Uppal Enterprises came to present their request for a Class E liquor license for the new Om Restaurant. The restaurant will seat 180 people. It will open near the end of May. They described it as an upscale, but casual and affordable. It will feature Indian cuisine served in an approachable / American style.

*Parkin moved and Ewald seconded a motion to support the liquor license application for Om Restaurant. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### **V. CRIME AND SAFETY UPDATE**

George Rosenquist gave the Crime and Safety report. He mentioned the following:

- Attended last Court Watch meeting.
- Continue to send Community Impact Statements to Luther Krueger when he requests them. He also suggested that the DMNA should submit impact statements as an organization. Sweet stated that she would draft a template and share with the board.

#### **VI. NRP IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

Staff member Christie Rock reported that she has finished the final draft of the NRP Phase I Plan Review. She and Board Chair Carletta Sweet will present the document to the NRP Policy Board on April 28.

Ewald suggested the review should include an acknowledgements page that recognizes the work that CURA intern Joseph Kapper did on the project. Rock stated that she would put something together and share with the board for their approval.

Once the NRP Policy Board receives and files the Phase I Plan Review, the DMNA can start working on the Phase II Plan. Rock suggested the plan could be ready to present to the community at the annual meeting in December.

## **VII. MARKETING UPDATE**

Scott Parkin gave an update on the DMNA website. He also discussed the idea of developing a marketing brochure that promotes DMNA that could be included in new resident packets distributed by condo associations, apartment homes, Welcome Wagon, etc... Parkin said he would research the costs for this project.

## **VIII. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 13, 2009 BOARD MEETING**

*Ewald moved and Parkin seconded a motion to approve the January board minutes. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2009 BOARD MEETING**

*Ewald moved and Parkin seconded a motion to approve the February board minutes. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **IX. CONSIDERATION OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2009 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Staff member Christie Rock presented the March Financial Report.

*Hauer moved and Kline seconded a motion to receive and file the March Financial Reports. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **X. OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS / OTHER BUSINESS**

- *Office space* – Discussion continued regarding whether the DMNA should vacate its existing space at the Hennepin Center for the Arts as a means to save money. Several DMNA board members suggested alternative meeting locations that would be free, or relatively inexpensive compared to a long-term lease arrangement.

Parkin indicated that it is unlikely the DMNA could work out an arrangement at the Crown Roller Mill building unless the board met earlier. The doors lock at 4:30 p.m., no exceptions. Hauer stated that he would find out whether the DMNA could reserve a room at the Central Public Library on a long-term basis. Rosenquist noted that the Library closes at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, so the board meeting would have to end before that time.

There was continued discussion regarding the impact vacating the existing office space would mean for phone and mail. Ewald stated that he would research some alternatives to a land line telephone, and Rosenquist indicated that he would find out what the cost of a Post Office box would be, and whether the DMNA could have a street address.

- *Neighborhood and Community Engagement meeting update* – The meeting to determine the process for selecting the eight representatives to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission took place on Saturday, February 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Andy Hauer attended on behalf of the DMNA. He stated that it was a very good meeting. He indicated that NRP staff members were not allowed to attend the meeting to avoid influencing any outcomes. Hauer stated that there would be a follow-up meeting in April. Proposed outcomes for this meeting include:

- i. A recommended process for electing the eight neighborhood representatives to the NCEC.
- ii. A date for neighborhoods to submit their votes on the recommendation.
- iii. A preliminary timeframe for seeking candidates and electing them to the NCEC.

For more information: <http://www.nrp.org/R2/News/NewsArch/2008/20090403.html>.

- *Outreach and Collaboration updates* – Sweet asked board members to report from their respective outreach and collaboration groups.

## **XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary