

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Tuesday, February 9, 2010 Board Meeting Central Public Library 300 Nicollet Mall Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Other board members in attendance included Gerry Ewald, Vice Chair; Andy Hauer; and Wally Swan, Secretary.

Due to the absence of the following board members, no quorum was achieved: Andrea Christenson; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Corey Kline; and George Rosenquist.

Guests in attendance included: Councilmember Lisa Goodman; Ryan Kronzer, Shea Architects; and Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Chair Sweet asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda.

However, since there was no quorum, no action was taken.

III. 7th Ward Update by Council Member Lisa Goodman

Council Member Lisa Goodman gave information on the following items:

- Lunch with Lisa on the fourth Wednesday in February will highlight the Currie Avenue Partnership and a presentation by Monica Nilsson from St. Stephen's Human Services.
- Annual property valuation notices to be sent out in a few weeks.
- Winter parking restrictions enacted for public safety reasons due to recent high snow accumulations.
- Call 311 if sidewalk cleaning is not being done properly.
- Licensing of pets available online.
- 4,000 people will be hired metro-wide for 2010 Census. It's critical to Minnesota's future representation in Washington, D.C.
- Parcel E Line RFP released this week. Carrie Flack from CPED will give presentation to the DMNA Board in March.
- Village Green's Mill District City Apartments under construction at the corner of Portland and Washington Avenues South.

Council Member Goodman also provided an update regarding the Hennepin Avenue / First Avenue conversion project. She indicated that it is next to impossible to accommodate the concerns and suggestions of all the impacted parties, including cars, buses, pedestrians, bikers, etc. Moreover, it is difficult to evaluate the success or failure of the project in the winter due to the fact that snow creates confusion when you can not see the pavement striping.

Goodman is proposing a solution to Hennepin Avenue, which includes striping the bikers into the left side of the right lane. She believes this could happen in the spring, depending on what Public Works decides. She noted that she is not sure what the best solution is to the First Avenue complaints, other than removing the bike lane and moving parking back to the curb. She indicated that bikes would be allowed on Nicollet Avenue in the very near future, which should help the situation somewhat. The City will be meeting with bike riders in the spring to discuss the situation and possible changes to the existing conditions, as well as working on an overall bike plan for Downtown.

IV. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Update

District 4 Park Commissioner Anita Tabb highlighted the following activities and actions of the MPRB:

- Emerald Ash Bore - City received \$100,000 grant to replace trees.
- Crown Hydro - Park Board voted not to proceed.
- Plank road reconstruction - Park Board looking for funds for removal of planks.
- Starting search process for new superintendent.

Following a brief discussion regarding how often Tabb should attend future board meeting, it was decided her updates should coincide with Council Member Goodman's. Rock will coordinate meeting dates with Tabb.

Thereafter, since there was no quorum, Staff member Christie Rock will conduct a vote via email of the entire DMNA board regarding whether to support the adoption of a Tobacco-Free Policy for the City's parks and outdoor recreational facilities. *[Support was subsequently obtained from the DMNA board via email.]*

V. Land Use Report

Andy Hauer presented the following land use items for consideration:

- ***Historic Forum Restaurant (40 S. 7th Street) - Certificate of Appropriateness.*** Ryan Kronzer from Shea Architects gave a brief history of the usage of this City Center space (originally designed for the Forum Cafeteria nearly 80 years ago and more recently left vacant by Goodfellows restaurant in 2005) and provided photographs of the interior and exterior of the property. Jim Ringo of Ringo Restaurants, Inc. is planning to reopen the space as a full service restaurant and bar in time for the Twins home opener in April 2010. Most of the art deco styled interior will remain exactly the same. They will be

removing some acoustic panels and adding a handicap accessible bathroom.

Since there was no quorum, Staff member Christie Rock will conduct a vote via email of the entire DMNA board seeking a recommendation for this matter. [*Support for the Certificate of Appropriateness was subsequently obtained from the DMNA board via email.*]

- ***Sneaky Pete's/Dreamgirls - Application for signage variances.*** Dan Kaufman from Kaufman Sign Company gave the presentation on behalf of AMW Investments/Jimellie Enterprises. Kaufman has applied for a variance to increase the maximum area of 3 wall signs on the 5th Street façade to allow for signage for the property located at 10-14 North 5th Street in the B4S-2 Downtown Service District, as well as a variance to allow for a sign to be located on a non-primary building wall to allow for signage for the property located at 10-14 North 5th Street in the B4S-2 Downtown Service District.

Board discussion included concerns about the Sneaky Pete's signage on the non-primary wall building, as well as the awning covering the HVAC equipment.

Since there was no quorum, Staff member Christie Rock will conduct a vote via email of the entire DMNA board seeking a recommendation for this matter. [*Support for the application for signage variances, stipulating exclusion of signage along the non-primary wall as well as on the awning covering the HVAC equipment, was subsequently obtained from the DMNA board via email.*]

VI. Staff Report

Christie Rock submitted a written report via email to the board members and asked if anyone had specific questions. A question was raised about the DMNA Web site updates. Rock indicated that she prepares the updates and submits them to Jen at Sassafra who makes the changes. Discussion ensued regarding transitioning the Web site to a blogging platform to allow Rock to make any changes, and whether the DMNA owns the Web site and logo. Rock said she would contact Jen at Sassafra and find out.

VII. Crime and Safety Update

No Crime and Safety update was given due to the absence of the Crime and Safety liaison George Rosenquist.

VIII. NRP Implementation Report

Rock indicated that she had nothing new to report at this time.

IX. Consideration of Minutes from December 8, 2009 Annual Meeting

Since there was no quorum, no action was taken.

X. Consideration of Minutes from the January 12, 2010 Board Meeting

Since there was no quorum, no action was taken.

XI. Consideration of the February 2010 Financial Report

Rock reported on the FY 2010 Budget vs. Actual as of February 2010.

Since there was no quorum, no action was taken.

XII. Old / New / Other Business

Since there was no quorum, no other business was discussed.

XIII. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Chair

Secretary