

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Hennepin County Central Public Library

300 Nicollet Mall

Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the board meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

All other board members were in attendance, i.e.:

Gerry Ewald, Vice Chair
Paula Klimek, Treasurer
Wally Swan, Secretary
Andrea Christenson
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
Corey Kline
George Rosenquist, Crime and Safety Liaison

Guests in attendance included:

Lisa Goodman, 7th Ward Council Member
Tina Hoye, Real Estate Advisor, Nelson, Tietz and Hoye
Diana Hubbard, Insomnia Night Club and Lounge
Anna Larsson, North Loop Kids/Playground Fundraising Committee
Margaret McAbee, Executive Director, Survivor Resources
Miles Mercer, CPED Senior Project Coordinator
Jennifer Ringold, MPRB Citywide Planner
Karen Lee Rosar, Board Director, North Loop Neighborhood Association
Catherine Rydell, Executive Director, America Academy of Neurology
Gene Suh, Whisky Park
Anita Tabb, MPRB 4th District Park Commissioner
Andrea Weber, MPRB Landscape Architect

DMNA staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. Consideration of the Agenda

There being no changes or additions to the agenda,

Christenson moved and Ewald seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Update

District 4 Park Commissioner Anita Tabb gave an update on recent MPRB activities highlighting the following:

- Finalized purchase of the Scherer Bros. lumberyard site
- In partnership with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation will soon release Minneapolis Upper Riverfront International Design Competition RFQ
<http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=52&prid=1370>
- Citizens Advisory Committee for Southwest LRT will review draft EIS
- Ash tree removal continues with assistance of a grant from the State of Minnesota
- Reorganization in the works for management level at MPRB as cost savings measure
- Miscellaneous roadway improvement projects
- Fuji Ya site still in litigation
- Fourth Annual Minneapolis Bike Tour scheduled for Sunday, September 19, 2010
- The Next Generation of Parks series will be a lecture on September 28th by Peter Harnik called "Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities" at the Hennepin County Central Library, and a lecture on November 10th by Ed Uhlir called "The Making of Millennium Park" at MacPhail Center for Music. For more information visit www.mplsparcsfoundation.org

IV. 7th Ward Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman highlighted the following activities:

- Introduction of Catherine Rydell, Executive Director of the American Academy of Neurology
- Next lunch with Lisa on Wednesday, September 29, at the University of St. Thomas, will feature former Minnesota Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher
- Numerous positions available on City boards and commissions. Consolidating process into bi-annual appointments. Contact Goodman's office if you have an interest, or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/>
- News Bytes just emailed
- Skyway Senior Center, which recently lost its \$125,000 annual financial support from Medica®, received multi-year funding commitment from UCare Minnesota
- Encouragement to patronize downtown food carts. Hoping to grant more licenses next year, depending on this year's sales and success
- Nice Ride up and operating. City will put bikes away in November
<http://www.niceridemn.org/>
- Hennepin and First Avenues' bike lanes repainted
- Council Member Aide Doug Kress deferred his Bush fellowship until the spring

V. Downtown Kids Park Presentation

North Loop Board Member Karen Lee Rosar introduced the Downtown Kids Park project. The park is located at River Road and Fourth Avenue North. MPRB City-wide Planner Jennifer Ringold gave

a presentation on the architectural and landscaping plans for the park. She indicated that the park has both historic and nature play themes. In addition to the playground equipment, the park will have a picnic facility and walking paths.

The total budget for the park is \$400,000. MPRB asked the North Loop Neighborhood Association to raise \$100,000. NLNA itself has committed \$25,000 of its NRP Phase II funds, and the Minneapolis Park Foundation has also committed \$25,000. In addition, Best Buy, Target, and Bobby and Steve's Auto World have made contributions to the park, and they are asking the DMNA donate a significant amount as well.

Board discussion ensued regarding the value this park will have to the Downtown neighborhoods, e.g.: How many families with children actually live in Downtown East and West? Will they use the park? How will they get to the park? The North Loop representatives estimate that there are at least 50 children currently living in the Downtown neighborhoods and firmly believe this park will be a benefit not only to downtown residents, but also to visitors. It is an amenity that will help attract people to the area.

Kline moved and Hauer seconded a motion to contribute \$10,000 in NRP Phase I Downtown Development dollars towards the Downtown Kids Park playground equipment. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed with Christenson and Ewald voting against. Klimek abstained from voting.

VI. Survivor Resources Presentation

Executive Director Margaret McAbee distributed informational materials and gave a presentation on the work of Survivor Resources indicating that Survivor Resources, formerly known as the Victim Intervention Project, was developed at the request of Lt. Joe Corcoran, retired Commander of the St. Paul Police Homicide Unit. After learning about the work of the Victim Intervention Program's work, the Minneapolis Homicide Unit asked VIPI to provide services in Minneapolis and Hennepin County. The group provides a variety of resources for survivors of suicide and homicide, including support groups and financial assistance for funerals. The primary funding source is donations from victim survivors and grants. The State Legislature has previously provided funding for Survivor Resources, but the allocation was cut from the last biennium budget.

For more information, please visit <http://www.survivorresources.org/index.htm>.

VII. Land Use Committee Report

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer gave the following land use report:

- **1100 South Second Street RFP.** CPED Senior Project Coordinator Miles Mercer gave a short presentation on the 1100 South Second Street RFP. He indicated the lot is approximately 9,700 sq. ft., and has been owned by the City since 1994. The City is seeking responses to the RFP that include both residential and commercial uses. The goals are to maximize the use of the site and to contribute to the vibrancy of the Mill District. The RFP is due October 22. Mercer hopes to come back to the November DMNA Board meeting with an update. The Board took no action on this item.

- ***American Academy of Neurology (Liner Parcel).*** Tina Hoye from Nelson, Tietz and Hoye provided the Board with an update on the American Academy of Neurology's plans for the Liner Parcel, which has frontage on Chicago Avenue South. The site plan goes before the Planning Commission on October 18. They need one variance for the project. Hoye indicated that AAN intends to work with the surrounding area to ensure that the project integrates into the community in a positive way.

Christenson moved and Ewald seconded a motion to support the American Academy of Neurology's site plan and variance application. Sweet called for discussion. The Motion passed.

- ***Insomnia Night Club and Lounge.*** Diana Hubbard gave a presentation on the Insomnia Night Club and Lounge's request for a Class B liquor license. She gave some details about the layout of the club, the hours of operation, and the number of employees. The Board took no action on this item.
- ***Whisky Park.*** Gene Suh gave a presentation on the Whisky Park Class B liquor license application. He indicated that the restaurant is modeled after the Toby Keith I Love This Bar concept. He also provided details on the layout and design, menu, and hours of operation. The Board took no action on this item.

VIII. DMNA Web site Conversion Project

Staff Member Christie Rock summarized the Web site conversion project cost benefit analysis. She also briefly highlighted the Web site companies under consideration and recommended that the Board hire Vivid Image to do the work. Andy Hauer asked what the estimated total cost of the project would be, and Rock indicated it would be less than \$2,000.

Ewald moved and Klimek seconded a motion to hire Vivid Image to do the Web site conversion project. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. NRP Implementation Update

Rock recommends that the DMNA Board present the NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan to the community at the Annual Meeting on December 14. This will give Chair Sweet adequate time to proofread the draft and for Rock to promote the event in the *Downtown Journal*. Rock also indicated that NRP Specialist Barb Lickness recommends no changes or revisions to the housing section at this time. Rock and Lickness can make revisions to the plan language depending on the types of housing projects and/or organizations the DMNA Board recommends for funding.

X. Staff Report

Rock summarized her activities for the period 7/6/10 to 9/10/10 from the report she previously submitted via email.

XI. Consideration of minutes from the June 8, 2010 board meeting

Ewald moved and Kline seconded a motion to approve the June 8, 2010 board meeting minutes. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed. George Rosenquist abstained since he was absent from the meeting.

XII. Consideration of minutes form the July 13, 2010 internal board meeting

Sweet asked Staff person Christie Rock to add the link to the State Statute that references the policy for holding public meetings on election nights. Thereafter,

Swan moved and Klimek seconded a motion to approve the July 13, 2010 board meeting minutes as amended. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed. George Rosenquist abstained since he was absent from the meeting.

XIII. Consideration of September 2010 Financial Report

Hauer moved and Klimek seconded a motion to receive and file the September 2010 financial report. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

XIV. Old / New / Other Business

- ***NRP Policy Board Elections.*** Hauer indicated that the NRP Policy Board elections are scheduled for Thursday, November 18. DMNA needs to nominate one elector and one alternate elector for Downtown East and for Downtown West. In 2009, Andy Hauer served as the elector and Paula Klimek served as the alternate elector for Downtown West, and Kathleen Anderson served as the elector and Corey Kline served as the alternate elector for Downtown East.

Swan moved and Ewald seconded a motion to nominate the same NRP Policy Board electors and alternate electors from 2009 for 2010. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

- ***2010 Annual Meeting update and discussion.*** This year's annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 14, at the Hennepin County Central Library in the Pohlad Hall. There was discussion regarding what time the meeting should start. The Board ultimately decided to have the meeting start at 6:30 p.m. There was also discussion regarding potential speakers. The following are a few suggestions:
 - Sarah Harris from the Downtown Improvement District
 - Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin
 - Representatives from the Minnesota Vikings
 - Representatives from the Peavey Plaza Renovation Project

Rock will contact Council Member Goodman for her ideas and suggestions and the *Downtown Journal* to schedule advertising.

- **Update on outreach and collaboration with other Downtown organizations.** Sweet asked Board members to give updates on the respective organizations and groups they are involved with, and/or meetings they attend on a regular basis.
 - Rosenquist gave a brief update on Court Watch.
 - Swan advised that he will be attending the annual Minnesota Council of Nonprofits conference in Duluth.
 - Rosenquist stated that the Downtown Council is coordinating an effort to raise dollars for the Currie Avenue Partnership, then suggested that the DMNA contribute \$5,000 towards this initiative using remaining Phase I dollars. Discussion ensued, however it was decided not to take any action at this time as it was not on the agenda. Sweet advised George that matters which will require board action at a board meeting should first be placed on the agenda with any supporting materials attached for review in advance, and to have available a representative from the organization/project who can answer questions board members may have. George agreed to follow up on the matter and schedule it for the next board meeting.
 - Christenson requested to be removed as the DMNA representative for the DEEP Initiative due to her time constraints. Hauer stated that he might be willing to serve in this role.
 - Sweet gave an update regarding 2020 Partners. She also requested that the Board consider supporting this collaborative effort again in 2010 with another \$1,000 contribution (DMNA has previously given 2010 Partners \$1,000 in 2008 and in 2009), matching what the Warehouse District Business Association and the North Loop Neighborhood Association each contributes.

Klimek moved and Hauer seconded a motion to contribute \$1,000 to 2020 Partners. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

XV. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Chair

Secretary