

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Hennepin County Central Public Library
300 Nicollet Mall
Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chair Gerry Ewald called the board meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Board members in attendance:

Paula Klimek, Treasurer
Wally Swan, Secretary
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
George Rosenquist, Crime and Safety Liaison

Absent Board members included:

Andrea Christenson
Corey Kline
Carletta Sweet, Chair

Guests in attendance included:

Kim Eslinger, Bridgewater/Mill District resident
Cathy tenBroeke, Heading Home Hennepin
Dave Tinjum, Bridgewater/Mill District resident
Jesse Winkler, Elliot Park resident

DMNA staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer requested a few minutes to talk about a land use related item.

Swan moved and Hauer seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Crime and Safety Update

- *Currie Avenue Partnership* – Rosenquist introduced Cathy tenBroeke from Heading Home Hennepin to provide the Board with some information regarding the Currie Avenue Partnership. The initiative is a partnership between the Downtown Council and the local faith community. The idea was conceived by Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman and ten Broeke after a visit to the Salvation Army's shelter on Currie Avenue last December.

As a result of the downturn in the economy, there were many more people using shelter facilities on Currie Avenue. Many of these people had major disabilities, most with mental illness and chemical dependency issues. People with disabilities are eligible for a State assistance program called Group Residential Housing.

The problem with GRH is that clients need a case manager, or someone to hold their hand to help them find the housing, and provide support so they can be successful in the new environment. A case manager costs \$35,000. However, ten Broeke explained that after the case manager has housed 15 clients, GRH funds are sufficient enough to sustain the position for the long-term.

Based on this fact, tenBroeke and others approached leaders in the community about the idea of raising funds to hire case managers to help people with disabilities find permanent housing. In less than four months, \$350,000 was raised and the initiative was able to hire ten caseworkers. To date, the program has helped 82 people find housing, and this number will increase to 150 by the end of November.

Ten Broeke concluded her presentation by announcing that the initiative recently received a very generous donation of \$50,000. The donor has challenged the partners to find matching funds. This will enable the partnership to assist more people with disabilities and ultimately reduce the number of people using the shelters on Currie Avenue.

Rosenquist suggested that the DMNA should make a contribution to the Currie Avenue Partnership using the remaining Phase I NRP Crime and Safety dollars. This will enable the organization to leverage its dollars.

Rosenquist moved and Swan seconded a motion to contribute \$2,500 in Phase I NRP dollars to the Currie Avenue Partnership initiative. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock will work with NRP Specialist Barb Lickness to get the dollars contracted. She anticipates the contracting process to take six to eight weeks.

For more information:

<http://hennepin.us/portal/site/HennepinUS/menuitem.b1ab75471750e40fa01dfb47ccf06498/?vgnextoid=d44ac540d3048210VgnVCM20000048114689RCRD>

- ***Discussion regarding neighborhood- policing priorities*** – Rock and Rosenquist indicated that First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Renee Allen has expressed an interest in meeting with DMNA Board members to review and discuss the 2011 neighborhood policing priorities for Downtown East and Downtown West. Rock noted that Chair Sweet would like to do this outside of a regular board meeting. Several board members expressed an interest in meeting with Allen at 5:30 p.m. before the regular board meeting on November 9. Rock stated she would contact Allen to confirm her availability. Below are links to the 2010 Neighborhood Policing Plans for Downtown East and Downtown West.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/DowntownEastPolicingPlan2010.pdf>

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/DowntownWestPolicingPlan2010.pdf>

IV. Land Use Report

Chair Hauer gave a quick land use report. He indicated that a Minneapolis police officer approached him seeking support from the neighborhood group in getting the rock wall removed from the front entrance area of the Target store on Nicollet Mall. Hauer provided a few photographs of the wall and its proximity to the Target store entrance. He indicated that the police officer is concerned about criminal activity, panhandling, and pedestrian congestion taking place on and near the location of the wall. Other board members concurred with the police officer's concerns.

Hauer asked the DMNA board members to support him taking action on this police officer's request to get the wall relocated to another location on Nicollet Mall. He indicated he would contact Council Member Goodman's office and the Downtown Improvement District. He also said he would talk with Crime Prevention Specialist Renee Allen to find out specific crime reports for that corner.

Hauer moved and Swan second a motion to support taking action to have the wall in front of the Target store moved to a new location. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Web site Conversion Project Update

Rock gave a quick update on the status of the Web site conversion project. She indicated that Vivid Image is almost finished with the project. Once Vivid Image has the template complete, Rock will make updates to the text on the site and add the minutes. She anticipates the Web site going live sometime in mid-November. Vice Chair Ewald encouraged board members to submit information for their profiles to Rock. He also provided Rock with some changes/corrections.

VI. Staff Report

Rock summarized her activities for the period 9/11/10 to 10/8/10 from the report she previously submitted via email.

VII. Consideration of minutes from the September 14, 2010 Board meeting

Swan moved and Klimek seconded a motion to approve the September 14, 2010 board meeting minutes. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VIII. Consideration of the October 2010 Financial report

Hauer moved and Swan seconded a motion to receive and file the October 2010 financial report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Old / New / Other Business

- **2010 Annual Meeting update and discussion.** There was continued discussion regarding the 2010 annual meeting. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 14, at the Hennepin County Central Library in the Pohlad Hall. There was further discussion regarding what time the meeting should start. The Board ultimately decided to change the meeting start time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There was continued discussion regarding potential speakers. The following are a few suggestions:
 - Sarah Harris from the Downtown Improvement District
 - Mike Christenson from CPED
 - Cathy tenBroeke and Monica Nilsson regarding homelessness in the Downtown community
 - Vikings officials
 - Artspace Project Inc., Shubert Performing Arts and Education Center update
- **Update on outreach and collaboration with other Downtown organizations.** Ewald 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.
 - Swan indicated that he attended the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits annual conference in Duluth. He is in the process of preparing notes from the event and will email them to board members when he has them finished.
 - Rosenquist gave a brief update on Court Watch. He noted that there have been people taken off the Downtown 100 list.
 - Rosenquist also gave a quick update on the Downtown Council. He thanked the Board for its support of the Currie Avenue Partnership. He also commented on the Downtown Improvement District and the positive impact it has had on the Downtown community.
 - Hauer stated that the Orchestra Association Community Engagement Committee has not met again since his last report.

X. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Chair

Secretary