

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Hennepin County Central Library

300 Nicollet Mall

Room N-202, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Gerry Ewald called the board meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Andrea Christenson
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
Paula Klimek, Treasurer
George Rosenquist, Crime and Safety Liaison
Wally Swan, Secretary
Carletta Sweet, Vice Chair
Jesse Winkler

Guests in attendance included:

Tony Barranco, Ryan Companies US, Inc.
Lina Goh and John Ng, Zen Box Japanese Eatery
Mike Linnemann, Minnesota Planetarium Society
Tom Melchior, Larson Allen
Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

DMNA staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. Consideration of the Agenda

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

III. Land Use Committee Report

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer gave the following report:

- **Zen Box Izakaya.** Lina Goh, co-owner of Zen Box Japanese Eatery in the skyway level of the 6 Quebec building, introduced herself and announced that she is planning to open a new comfort-style Japanese restaurant called Zen Box Izakaya in the retail space of Mill District City Apartments at 602 Washington Avenue South by mid August of this year. Goh presented a request for a Class E On-sale liquor license application and reviewed the restaurant's concept, menu, and hours of operation which will also include summer outdoor seating.

Winkler moved and Klimek seconded a motion to support a Class E On-sale liquor license application for the Zen Box Izakaya restaurant. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **222 Hennepin Avenue (former Jaguar site).** Tony Barranco, Retail Development Director for Ryan Companies US, introduced himself as the lead person for the acquisition of the former Jaguar dealership site on behalf of RCUS. Barranco described the proposed redevelopment plan for the site which includes a mix of uses from retail/commercial (including a grocery store) to multi-family housing. Regarding housing, Ryan is proposing 200 to 250 units of Class A rentals, likely one- and two-bedroom apartments similar to the Mill District City Apartments in Downtown East. Barranco stated that Ryan intends to leverage the existing on-site parking ramp and wrap development around it with activity occurring on all sides of the property. The height of the building will vary between 50 and 100 feet. Barranco said he would come back to the DMNA Board once Ryan finalizes its plans and prepares to submit the site plan for approval by the City.
- **Minnesota Planetarium Update.** Mike Linnemann, Development Officer for the MPS, gave an update on the Minnesota Planetarium's plans for its future home. He explained a number of options, including co-locating with the Bell Museum of Natural History (who would like to integrate them into their development plans), relocating to the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, constructing a facility across the street from the Hennepin County Central Library where it is currently headquartered, or adding on to the Hennepin County Central Library. Due to exorbitant development costs the latter two options are less likely. Several board members posed questions as to why the original plan to develop the Planetarium in the Hennepin County Central Library changed. Linnemann explained that collaboration with the Bell Museum is most likely because bonding money requires it. He stated that he would be happy to come back to the board after the legislative session ends to provide an update on the bonding monies. Meanwhile, the ExploraDome, the portable learning environment, will continue to visit schools and nonprofits. For more information about the Minnesota Planetarium Society or to schedule an ExploraDome visit, go to www.mplanetarium.org.
- **Crown Hydro Update.** In the absence of MPRB District 4 Commissioner Anita Tabb, MPRB District 3 Commissioner Scott Vreeland gave an update on the Crown Hydro project, the controversial hydroelectric facility to be constructed on park property on the West Bank of the Mississippi River at the former Bassett Sawmill and Columbia Flour Mill sites in downtown Minneapolis. He explained the Letter of Intent submitted on May 4th by Crown Hydro, LLC, and advised that the MPRB will be diligently and meticulously working on a response to it.

As background, Crown Hydro was issued a license by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to construct and operate a hydroelectric facility. If it is to use MPRB land, it would need to amend its FERC license identifying the MPRB land as the site for its facility, which it can only do if it enters into a land use agreement with the MPRB. Recently, Crown Hydro approached the MPRB to renew discussions that would lead to a land use agreement. The negotiated terms and conditions resulting from the discussions were organized into a Letter of Intent for MPRB consideration.

Due to developments at the legislature (i.e., Bills introduced in the House and Senate directing the MPRB to sign a lease agreement with Crown Hydro), the MPRB's hands could be tied. Meanwhile, due to the untimely submission of the Letter of Intent, the MPRB voted to postpone a decision until its next meeting on May 18th. Thereafter, once responding to questions posed by the board, Vreeland encouraged board members to attend the May 18th MPRB meeting because, although not considered a public meeting, public comments would likely be heard.

- ***Downtown Rezoning Study April meeting follow-up.***

Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to table consideration of providing a letter of support for the study recommendations. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with Winkler opposing.

IV. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) Update

- ***Continued discussion regarding possible festivals and events to support in 2011.*** The board members gave ideas regarding Downtown festivals and events to possibly support in 2011 which included the following:
 - Aquatennial Block Party
 - Bike Twin Cities
 - Mill City Farmers Market
 - Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District Greening Awards
 - Mississippi-Minneapolis River Tour / Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership
 - National Night Out / North Loop
 - National Night Out / People Serving People
 - Northern Spark
 - Red, White and Boom
 - Solstice River XV
 - Sommerfest at Orchestra Hall
 - Urban Agricultural Policy Plan
 - 2011 Minneapolis Summer Walking and Biking Tours

The board will continue to discuss this item at the June meeting.

- ***Discussion regarding 2012 Community Participation Program.*** There was continued discussion regarding how the DMNA could conduct outreach in the Downtown community to engage more people in the work and activities of the organization.

V. Consideration of minutes from the April 12, 2011 board meeting

Sweet moved and Swan seconded a motion to approve the April 12, 2011, board meeting minutes. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Consideration of May 2011 Financial Report

Rock presented the May 2011 Financial Report.

Sweet moved and Swan seconded a motion to receive and file the May 2011 financial report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock presented the 2010 IRS Form 990 and the 2010 Minnesota Charitable Organization Reporting Form.

Hauer moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the 2010 IRS Form 990, and the 2010 Minnesota Charitable Organization Reporting Form, as well as the \$25 State of Minnesota filing fee.

VII. Staff Report

Rock summarized her activities for the period 04-08-2011 to 05-06-2011 from the report she previously submitted via email.

Hauer moved and Swan seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VIII. Board Governance

- *Continued discussion regarding Bylaws and electronic board meetings and voting.*

Postponed to a later date.

IX. Old Business / new business / other business

- *Preliminary discussion regarding DMNA Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2011.* Hauer noted that he has reserved Pohlad Hall for the annual meeting.
- *Update on outreach and collaboration with other downtown organizations.* Due to timing, there were no verbal reports given at the board meeting. Ewald asked board members to reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart previously sent via email from Sweet for updates not specifically mentioned in the meeting.

XI. Adjournment

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

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2011.

Chair

Secretary