

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 *Hennepin County Central Public Library* Pohlad Hall 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

I. Call to Order and Welcome

Board Chair Gerry Ewald called the annual 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:

Chris Allen, Hennepin County Security
Reneé Allen, MPD 1st Precinct Sector 1 Crime Prevention Specialist
Durene P. Baysmythe, St. Anthony Mills Apartments resident
Susan Braun, EPNI Urban Design Coordinator
David Butler, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District
Bobby Champion, MN Representative District 58B
Jane Dietl, downtown resident
Jayson Drake, downtown resident
Wendy Drake, downtown resident
Kim Eslinger, Bridgewater resident/Mill City Times editor
Kevin Frazell, League of Minnesota Cities
David Frank, Minneapolis CPD Senior Manager of Transit Development
Lisa Goodman, Ward 7 Council Member
Sarah Harris, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District COO
Ahmed Hassan, MPD 1st Precinct Sector 2 Crime Prevention Specialist
Carlos Hernandez, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District
Linda Higgins, MN Senator District 58
Dolores Karan, Meet Minneapolis
Jason Lake, downtown resident
Eric Laska, RiverWest resident
Barb Lichness, Mill District City Apartments resident
Jim Lynskey, downtown resident
Peter McLaughlin, Hennepin County Commissioner 4th District
Tom Melchior, LarsonAllen, LLP
Paul Puttlitz, Loring Park resident
Lynn Regnier, EPNI Executive Director
Karen Runyon, downtown resident
Maurice Smith, Hennepin County Security

Anita Tabb, MPRB District 4 Commissioner
Dave Tinjum, Bridgewater resident/Mill City Times photographer
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident
Ellen Wolfson, downtown resident
Linda Woller, downtown resident
Shane Zahn, Minneapolis DID SafeZone Operations

DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock was also present.

Ewald gave a warm October welcome to the audience with a quote by gardener Carol Bishop Hipps then explained the DMNA's mission and its geographic purview. Thereafter, he gave a brief update of the DMNA's activities over the past year.

II. DMNA's 2011 Accomplishments

Due to the time constraint of the annual meeting, below for general membership edification is a more comprehensive listing of those accomplishments:

Under Crime and Safety

- Continued participation in the Downtown Court Watch program whose mission is to hold chronic offenders accountable for their crimes and to reduce and prevent the commission of new crimes in the downtown community.
(<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/CourtWatch.pdf>)

Under Downtown Development

- Provided input on the East-West Transit Spine Study.
- Strengthened collaborative relationships with the following groups:
 - Downtown Neighborhood Associations Leaders, an informal group comprised of leaders from North Loop (www.northloop.org), Loring Park (www.loringpark.org), Elliot Park (www.elliottpark.org), and DMNA (www.thedmna.org) for the purpose of promoting shared interests and resolving shared concerns;
 - East Downtown Council which serves as an advocate for the Downtown East and Elliot Park business community (www.edcmpls.org);
 - Minneapolis Downtown Council which preserves and enhances a vital and attractive downtown for those who invest, work, shop, visit and live here (www.downtownminneapolis.com);
 - Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative, successor to the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition (MR | DI) and a design-based strategy to leverage parks as the engine for sustainable recreational, cultural, and economic development along the riverfront (www.minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com);
 - Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership which was established, at the request of the City and MPRB, to support and implement riverfront revitalization (www.minneapolisriverfrontpartnership.org);

- Minnesota Orchestra Assn Community Engagement Committee to provide input on the renovation of Peavey Plaza;
- 2020 Partners which continues to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development by leveraging assets of Target Field, Minneapolis Farmers Market, transit and energy (www.the2020partners.com).

Under Land Use

- Reviewed numerous variance requests, conditional use permits, site plan reviews, liquor license applications, and provided letters of support and recommendations to City staff and elected officials, e.g.:
 - Supported the City's sale of the Hennepin Stages property to the ownership of the Brave New Workshop.
 - Provided a letter of support for the Salvation Army's application to the City's Emergency Shelter Grant Program for a new roof at the Harbor Light Shelter located at 1010 Currie Avenue.
 - Provided a letter of support to the Twisted Fork and Crooked Pint for a Class B liquor license.
 - Provided a letter of support to CRAVE for a Class B liquor license.
 - Provided a letter of support to Lund Food Holdings for the concept plans for the grocery store proposed for 12th Street and Hennepin Avenue.
 - Provided input into the City's Downtown Rezoning Study.
 - Provided a letter of support to Ryan Companies for their proposed redevelopment project located at 222 Hennepin Avenue.
 - Provided a letter of support to the Hennepin Theatre Trust for a Class A liquor license for the New Century Theatre.
 - Provided a letter of support to Accenture Tower for the Gateway Plaza Renovation Project, including three sign variance requests.
 - Provided a letter of support to Opus Development Corporation for their redevelopment proposal for the former Powers Department Store site.

Under NRP Implementation

- Reallocated \$5,000 in NRP funds to the SafeZone Collaborative to purchase a Polaris EV LSV electric vehicle.
- Appointed electors and alternates to participate in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board's annual election process.

Under NCEC Community Participation Program

- Appointed electors and alternates to participate in the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission's annual election process.
- Contributed \$2,500 in Community Participation Program funds to the Mill City Farmers Market for sponsorship of weekly musical performances.

Ewald then introduced the current DMNA Board of Directors and explained that due to the change in date of the annual meeting from December to October, expiration of current terms have been reduced by two months.

III. Amendment of DMNA Bylaws

Ewald explained the need for amending the DMNA Bylaws by inserting Article VII Sections 7 and 8 (copies of which were provided to the general membership prior to and at the instant meeting) that address the need to take board action outside of regularly scheduled board meetings and to allow such actions be taken by voting via electronic means then subsequently ratifying such actions taken at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Ewald then requested consideration of this action by the general membership.

Hauer moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve amending the DMNA Bylaws. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. DMNA Gratitude Award Presentation

Hauer presented the organization's first annual Gratitude Award to the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District in recognition and appreciation of its work to support, preserve, create and enhance a vibrant, competitive and thriving downtown that helps attract and retain businesses, employees, residents and visitors alike. Hauer quoted figures demonstrative of DID's work accomplished to date: 12,009 number of graffiti removed; 200,770 number of pedestrians assisted, recommendations and escorts given; 2,206,348 pounds of garbage picked up off the street; and 24+ number of lives saved. According to Hauer, these accomplishments more than justify the existence of and need for the DID's services.

Chief Operating Officer Sarah Harris accepted the award and thanked the DMNA for working in partnership with the DID to help ensure the Downtown community is a great place to live, work, and visit.

V. 7th Ward Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman began by heartily thanking the volunteer work of the DMNA Board and its Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock. She then prefaced her update by noting that despite the fact that government is under assault, that on the local level, in this city and in this neighborhood in particular, much is going on and being accomplished. Goodman then highlighted the following initiatives and activities:

- The opening of the newly refurbished Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts
- The groundbreaking of a second Lund's grocery store and wine market at 1201 Hennepin Avenue
- The redevelopment plans for the former Jaguar site at 222 Hennepin Avenue by Ryan Cos. USA
- The proposed 33-story, mixed-use, transit-oriented luxury apartment project at 5th and Nicollet (the former Powers Department Store site) by Opus Development

- The proposed SOO Line Building conversion into apartments at 501 Marquette Avenue by Village Green
- The proposed redevelopment of City Place (formerly the Lincoln National Bank building) into affordable housing units above the International Education Center at 730 Hennepin by Everwood Development Group
- Re-emergence of the Dock Street transit-oriented development in the North Loop by Hines Interests
- The 36-story apartment plan for Loring Park by Chicago-based Megellan Development Group
- Hennepin Theatre Trust recipient of \$200,000 Our Town grant from National Endowment for the Arts to be used to re-invent Hennepin Avenue as an arts-inspired cultural corridor stretching from the Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Sculpture Garden to the Mississippi Riverfront
- Repaving of 52 blocks, most with bike lanes due to award of Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program funds
- Installation of new solar operated parking meters
- New pedestrian timing signals at crosswalks
- Minneapolis DID's streetscaping work
- Last Lunch with Lisa of 2011 on Thursday, October 26th, 12 noon with Tom Oslund regarding the Peavey Plaza redesign plan or attend the public meeting on Wednesday, October 19th, 4:30 p.m. at Orchestra Hall
- Late with Lisa scheduled for Monday, December 19, at 4:30 p.m., at the Normandy
- 2011-2012 Minneapolis Redistricting is underway. There is talk about splitting downtown into more than one Ward but believe, as a downtown resident, should keep communities with common interests together and thus the current downtown neighborhoods should collaborate on redistricting

After a brief Q&A, Goodman again thanked the DMNA Board for the work it does in reviewing land use applications and providing recommendations to both she and City staff then encouraged the general membership to attend and participate at the DMNA meetings.

VI. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Update

4th District Commissioner Anita Tabb thanked the DMNA Board for inviting her to speak and highlighted the following initiatives and activities:

- **Minneapolis Riverfront Design Initiative (MR | DI).** The MPRB-approved RiverFIRST draft proposal (a copy of which was tendered to Ewald) is in its public review process
- **Fuji Ya "Waterworks" site.** Litigation over land sale is over; Minneapolis Park Foundation will engage a team of professionals to develop a site master plan and program. Paul Reyelts, Minneapolis Parks Foundation Board Treasurer, will fund this process through the MPF
- **Crown Hydro.** The organization has hired another law firm to deal with its issues with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; the MPRB must remain vigilant
- **Library Square Park.** This is an initiative (one of the five priority projects listed in the RiverFIRST draft proposal) of the Trust for Public Land

VII. Updates from Other Elected Officials

Ewald welcomed other elected officials to the podium who thanked the audience for their attendance and gave brief reports:

- Senator Linda Higgins who also sent greetings from Senator Scott Dibble
- Representative Bobby Joe Champion who advised that he had worked hard against the Crown Hydro project
- Commissioner Peter McLaughlin who discussed his involvement with safety and transit issues, gave status updates on the Central Corridor LRT, Southwest LRT and the Interchange Project. These projects reinforce that Minneapolis is the center of Minnesota's economy, a confluence of energy and the place to be. For more information visit his website at www.hennepin.us/petermclaughlin.

V. Transit-oriented Development in Downtown Minneapolis

David Frank, Senior Manager of Transit-oriented Development for the City's Community Planning and Economic Development department gave a brief description of his background. Prior to joining CPED, he was Director of Development at Schafer Richardson and prior to that worked at a redevelopment agency in Portland, Oregon. Then Frank explained what his job entails: coordinating efforts to implement private/public development activities around light rail stops and bus lines that will result in well-designed, mixed-use opportunities that will help grow the city's tax base.

VII. Elections to DMNA Board of Directors

Ewald invited the League of Women Voters volunteers to the podium to moderate the election process.

There were four seats each with 2-year terms and five candidates to fill the four available seats: Andrea Christenson, Andy Hauer, Eric Laska, George Rosenquist and Wally Swan.

The LWV called for nominations from the floor. When no additional nominations were offered, the LWV closed the nominations then gave the five candidates the opportunity to comment about themselves and share their interest in serving on the board.

Thereafter, the LWV invited the DMNA membership to vote. Once voting was completed, the LWV collected and counted the ballots.

VIII. Crime and Safety Report

First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Reneé Allen sent regrets from Inspector Kristine Arneson who was unable to attend due to security-related issues for Occupy Minneapolis and the Minnesota Lynk celebratory parade that day.

Allen's report began by praising the Court Watch program as a fabulous collaboration between private and public stakeholders (City and County Attorney's offices, DID SafeZone, St. Stephen's Human Services, Hennepin County Community Corrections, the Salvation Army, 1st Precinct neighborhood associations, and other interested community and business organizations) who are brought together not only to incarcerate but to rehabilitate the offenders as well. This collaboration has led to a 74 percent decrease in crimes committed by top offenders in downtown Minneapolis.

Allen also reported that the MPD continues to work with the DID under its Safe programs and services which fuses multiple public and private agencies and organizations into one network in order to handle different safety issues in downtown Minneapolis.

Allen further reported that Karma nightclub at 315 1st Avenue North (considered a public nuisance by city officials its sometimes violent clientele) surrendered its liquor license and since that time (approximately 4 weeks ago) the number of altercations in the Warehouse District has declined.

Lastly, Allen announced that the MPD's Block Leader Training for residents of North Loop, Downtown East and West, Loring Park, Elliot Park and Cedar Riverside will be held on Friday, November 9th, 6:30 p.m., at the 1st Precinct Community Room, 19 North 4th Street. RSVP to her at Renee.Allen@minneapolismn.gov.

IX. Election Announcement

The LWV volunteers returned to the podium and announce the newly elected board members: Andrea Christenson, Andy Hauer, Eric Laska and Wally Swan.

X. Adjournment

Ewald congratulated the incumbents and the newly elected board member Eric Laska, and thanked outgoing board member George Rosenquist. He also thanked the library for hosting the meeting, Dunn Brothers for providing refreshments, and Christie Rock for coordinating the logistics for the event. Last but not least, he thanked the audience for coming to the annual meeting and encouraged them to attend DMNA board meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the DMNA, please contact its Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock by phone at 320-583-4573 or via email at christie@hutchtel.net or info@thedmna.org.

Being no further business, the annual meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2011

Chair _____

Secretary _____