

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 2012
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 6:00 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Andy Hauer
Eric Laska
Wallace Swan
Carletta Sweet
Jesse Winkler

Board members Andrea Christenson and Paula Klimek were absent.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Lisa Bender, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Hauer requested to add two items to the agenda: an update regarding conversations with Sue Jahn related to National Night Out; and conversations he has had with George Rosenquist regarding reimbursement for attending Downtown Council meetings.

Hauer moved and Winkler seconded a motion to approve the May agenda as amended. Ewald asked for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

No report.

IV. NRP Implementation Update

- **Mill City Farmers Market.** Rock reminded the board that the MCFM opens on Saturday, May 12th at 8:00 a.m. and that she sent a check to support the entire music season.

- **Phase II Housing Opportunities Fund.** Rock advised that the language modification approved at the April 10th board meeting is moving through the City processes and noted that CPED Principal Planner Beth Elliott and Senior Project Coordinator Amy Geisler will be at the May 22nd special board meeting to discuss the HOF monies.

V. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from April 10, 2012

Swan moved and Laska seconded a motion to approve the board minutes from April 10, 2012 as amended to correct the spelling of Laska's first name. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Consideration of May 2012 Financial Report

Hauer moved and Swan seconded a motion to receive and file the May 2012 financial report. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock presented the 2011 Minnesota Charitable Organization Reporting Form to the board for approval. She also indicated that she recently submitted the Federal Form 990 Postcard on behalf of the DMNA. Swan asked Rock to email a copy of the completed 990 Postcard to board members.

Swan moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the 2011 tax filings, including the Minnesota Charitable Organization Reporting Form, along with the \$25 fee, plus the Federal Form 990 Postcard. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VII. Staff Report

Sweet moved and Swan seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report for the period from 4-7-12 to 5-4-12. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

VIII. Old business / new business / other business

- *Web site project update.*

Rock asked the board if they were ready to take action on the Web site update project. She indicated the cost of the update is \$1,500 based on a proposal submitted by Vivid Image. The purpose of the update would be to enhance the look of the DMNA Web site and improve some functionality. Swan asked for a copy of the proposal. Rock said she included that information with a previous month's board meeting materials, but would resend after this month's meeting.

Laska moved and Swan seconded a motion to move forward with the Web site update project. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

At this point, the board suspended discussion under old business, new business and other business and returned to Land Use because the presenter had arrived at the meeting.

IX. Land Use Report

Land Use Chair Hauer introduced the following project:

- *Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition bike proposal for Washington Avenue reconstruction project.*

Lisa Bender from the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition (<http://www.mplsbike.org/>) thanked the board for giving her a second opportunity to speak about the Coalition's proposal to add bike lanes to Washington Avenue when the road is reconstructed by Hennepin County in 2014.

Bender is seeking a letter of support from the DMNA Board. The draft letter she supplied in advance of the meeting encourages Hennepin County to include the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition's proposal to remove one lane of traffic in either direction between 11th Avenue South and Hennepin Avenue and add bike lanes as one of the reconstruction options presented at a public open house scheduled to take place in June.

Bender expressed concern that if the neighborhood does not support the Coalition's plan, Hennepin County will not consider it as an option. It is unclear at this point if the Heritage Preservation Commission supports the tree plan. Although the project takes place in the Downtown East neighborhood, Bender advised that the North Loop Neighborhood Association supports the idea.

After some further discussion, the board decided not to take any action on the letter of support until June in order to allow time to gather input from neighbors within the Mill District and other downtown stakeholders. Rock will contact David Tinjum from the Mill District as well as post the proposal on the DMNA Facebook page for feedback and email to the DMNA distribution list.

X. Continuation with old business / new business / other business

- *Update on outreach and collaboration with other downtown organizations.*
Reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart emailed from Sweet in advance of the meeting for updates.
 - *Discussion regarding creating a business-to-business type connection with the Minneapolis Downtown Council modeled on the MDC/EDC relationship.*
Sweet explained the new relationship the East Downtown Council recently

brokered with the Minneapolis Downtown Council and suggested the DMNA board consider pursuing a similar connection. Ewald advised that he had recently spoken with MDC Membership Director Karen Motzenbecker about the idea and she seemed receptive to it. However, Motzenbecker is expected to go on maternity leave soon. The board concluded this was a good idea and will continue to strategize on how to implement it.

- *Court Watch.* Rock reminded the board that Klimek had previously volunteered to attend the May meeting. Swan volunteered to attend the August meeting. Board volunteers will be needed for the June and July meetings.
- *National Night Out.* Hauer indicated that Sue Jahn is seeking the DMNA's financial support for the 2012 Minneapolis Riverfront National Night Out celebration and that he requested that she provide financial documentation from previous years events, as well as an invoice explaining the use of the funds for board consideration.
- *Minneapolis Downtown Council Reimbursement.* Hauer relayed the message he received from George Rosenquist who is seeking reimbursement for attending the MDC monthly luncheon meetings. A brief discussion ensued and it was reiterated that only board-approved DMNA representatives should be reimbursed and that since Rosenquist is no longer a DMNA board member or board-approved representative, it would be inappropriate to reimburse him for his participation.
- *First Precinct Open House.* Hauer announced that this year's Open House is on Wednesday, May 16th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 19 North 4th Street.

XI. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Chair

Secretary