

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 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:

Andrea Christenson
Andy Hauer
Eric Laska
Carletta Sweet
Jesse Winkler

Board members Paula Klimek and Wallace Swan were absent.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Ian Alexander, District 59B State Representative candidate
Amy Beckham, Riverfront National Night Out
Lisa Bender, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition
Laura Boyd, Alcohol Compliance Services
Beth Elliott, Minneapolis CPED
Kim Eslinger, Mill District resident
Jacob Frey
Lisa Goodman, 7th Ward Council Member
Sue Hilde, The Crossings
Scott Huston, Graves 601 Hotel
Sue Jahn, Riverfront National Night Out
Lance Knuckles, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department
Max Musicant, Musicant Group
Luis Osorio
Sam Rockwell, Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition
George Rosenquist, The Crossings resident
Anita Tabb, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Mary Thumma, Copper Pot Indian Grill
David Tinjum, Mill District Neighborhood Association
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident
Dale White, RiverWest resident
Srikanth Yeruva, Copper Pot Indian Grill

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Hauer moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the June agenda. Ewald asked for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Update

District 4 Commissioner Anita Tabb reported on the following items:

- The Water Works project (a collaboration of the MPRB and the Minneapolis Parks Foundation) at the former Fuji Ya site. [Paul Reyelts] funded the master plan and program for the site, and Anita believes he may be willing to contribute additional funds as they move forward. For more information and to view the renderings visit <http://mplsparksfoundation.org/projects/water-works/> and feel free to submit additional comments.
- The RiverFirst project that concentrates on redevelopment in the Above the Falls area particularly in north and northeast where residents haven't had much access to the river <http://mplsparksfoundation.org/projects/riverfirst/>.
- The study they hired the Trust for Public Land to conduct for creating a public realm conservancy in downtown (in partnership with the Downtown Improvement District) will be coming out in about a month. <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/agendas/2011-11-09/7-6-209ADM.pdf>
- Future plans for Gold Medal Park need to be determined since the private lease expires in 2016.
- The Crown Hydro project and its efforts to avoid termination of its FERC license at the Corps of Engineers site. For more recent information and to view Doug Verdier's letter to FERC, visit <http://mplsparkwatch.org/taxonomy/term/9>.

IV. Plaza on Nicollet Mall Presentation

Max Musicant from The Musicant Group gave a presentation on the new and reimagined Plaza on Nicollet Mall located at 250 Marquette Plaza / Cancer Survivor's Park. It is considered the premier outdoor space in downtown Minneapolis and on June 1st they launched a variety of summer activities (Tai Chi, Yoga and Spin classes, lawn games), introduced 20 tables with chairs, and a public piano to increase the use of this underused green space, all of which is funded by Marquette Plaza management. All are invited and are asked to 'like' them on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/ThePlazaMpls>. For more information and to submit your comments and suggestions, visit: <http://www.musicantgroup.com/>. They are working on obtaining free Wi-Fi, scheduling a family day, and investigating requirements for food truck/carts.

V. Ward 7 Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman reported on the following items:

- Van White Memorial Boulevard groundbreaking she attended before the instant meeting, which is considered an important step in connecting North and South Minneapolis. Named after Van Freeman White who was the first African American elected to the Minneapolis City Council (1980-89).
- No Lunch with Lisa in June or July. Next one will be on August 29 and will feature incoming Police Chief Jeaneé Harteau.
- Nine new cab stands are available in the Warehouse District and in effect Thursdays through Sundays, 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. in response to congestion concerns and the way police have closed off streets.
- Sisters Camelot is trying to build community through free food. They currently operate in Southeast Minneapolis and they want to expand but City ordinance does not allow for this downtown. She suggested they touch base with the downtown neighborhood organizations before pursuing this area. Given what she has read and heard, they appear to be what they claim and are not just feeding the homeless.
- Opposed to Bicycle Coalition's proposal to add bike lanes to Washington Avenue during the reconstruction project. She's been slammed with negative comments and believes it's a terrible idea to remove lanes of traffic and metered parking on a major thoroughfare.
- City adopted single-sort recycling which means that residents will be able to put all of their recyclables into one container instead of sorting different materials and disposing of them in separate containers.
- Projects given City approvals:
 - Opus' Velo Apartments at 103 North 2nd Street in the North Loop
 - Shea's rehab plans for the former Shinders building
 - Lunds wine market liquor license and sidewalk café at 1201 Hennepin Avenue (grand opening on June 14th); an 8,00 square foot Steele Fitness facility will open a rooftop training space above
 - Village Green's Soo Line Apartments at 501 Marquette Avenue is before the HPC and will go before the Planning Commission later in June
 - Peavey Plaza demolition moving forward (appeal by HPC was overturned)
 - Hines' Dock Street Apartments at 333 Washington Avenue North is moving forward (appeal by the County was withdrawn)
 - RS Eden's Emanuel Housing at 822 South 3d Street held a groundbreaking on June 6th
 - Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee
- Twin Cities Bicycling Club group bike rides - <http://www.biketcbc.org/>

VI. Downtown Surface Parking Lot Study presentation

CPED Principal Planner Beth Elliott gave a presentation on the Downtown Surface Parking Lot Study. CPED Planning received a grant through the Metropolitan Council to conduct the East Downtown Parking Lot Study that will be beneficial in taking the City from theoretical ideas about why the market has not yet developed here to factual financial data. This information will provide the needed tools to understand the implications of surface parking on property owners, interested developers, and the City and can serve as a model for station areas

throughout the region with underutilized sites. Some questions that should be answered include the following:

- What would be a prototypical revenue and expense statement for a surface lot in Downtown East?
- Are there existing City regulatory tools or incentives that could be used to encourage development of surface lots?
- What interim opportunities exist for improving the lots?
- Are there options for adjusting assessed value to be more responsive to development potential or improvements versus existing use? What are the pros and cons?
- What tools are available to build beyond what the market will provide to reach the zoning potential on these sites?
- What are the factors in perceived versus real land value?
- What impact will a new Vikings Stadium and Central Corridor LRT have on parking lot operations and revenue?

Elliott stated that the City would hire a consultant to complete this study with a signed contract likely in September. She estimates that the study will take about 6 months to complete (spring of 2013). Elliott would like the DMNA to designate a board member to serve on an advisory committee. Both Christenson and Laska expressed interest in serving. The DMNA Board will make a determination on who will fill the role at its July 10, meeting.

VII. Land Use Report

- **Copper Pot Indian Grill (10 South 5th Street).** Laura Boyd from Alcohol Compliance Services introduced the owners of the Copper Pot and stated that they have applied for a Class E liquor license with 2 a.m. sales. They are seeking a letter of support from the DMNA. Boyd described the experience of the owners and provided a brief overview of the restaurant, including the preliminary menu. There will be no outdoor seating.

Christenson moved and Ewald seconded the motion to approve the Class E liquor license with 2 a.m. sales for the Copper Pot Indian Grill. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Graves 601 Hotel.** Scott Huston from the Graves 601 Hotel introduced himself and stated that they have applied for a permanent expansion to premises in order to add an outdoor patio with seven tables and approximately 22 seats. He is seeking a letter of support from the DMNA.

Christenson moved and Winkler seconded a motion to approve the expansion of premises request from the Graves 601 Hotel. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition – Washington Avenue Bike Lanes.** Lisa Bender reintroduced herself and fellow Bike Coalition member Sam Blackwell. She thanked the DMNA for allowing her to come back to further explain the Bike Coalition's proposal to add bike lanes to Washington Avenue when Hennepin County reconstructs the road in 2014.

Bender commented on Council Member Goodman's reaction to the DMNA Board seeking input from the community regarding the Bike Coalitions' proposal to add bike lanes to Washington Avenue. She apologized for creating a controversial situation, explaining that the Bike Coalition's intention was only to reach out to the neighborhood to get a reaction to their idea and to encourage supporters to contact Hennepin County about adding it to their list of options.

Bender suggested that the DMNA contact Hennepin County project manager Jennifer Lowry and invite her to an upcoming meeting to talk about the Washington Avenue reconstruction project. Hennepin County is still conducting a study of Washington Avenue that is looking at traffic patterns, number of daily trips, number of bicycle users, etc.

After Bender entertained questions, the board decided to table the discussion until a further date.

- ***Sinners Nightclub.*** Sinners Nightclub is looking to extend its operating hours. They have been operating beyond what is allowed in the zoning ordinance. No one from Sinners Nightclub was present at the meeting.

Christenson moved and Winkler seconded a motion to deny Sinners request to extend its operating hours unless or until someone from Sinners reaches out to the neighborhood and/or attends a board meeting. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock will follow-up with the Regulatory Services Department and let them know the DMNA's decision, and request that the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee table discussion on the item until a later meeting date so that the owner has the time to reach out to the neighborhood group.

- ***Sister's Camelot.*** Discussed was postponed pending further investigation.

VIII. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

- ***Financial review by NCR Specialist Lance Knuckles.*** Knuckles provided an overview of the balance of the DMNA's Phase I and Phase II NRP dollars. The DMNA has \$522,847.28 in Phase II NRP funds available to contract, plus a little more than \$7,000 in Phase I rollover monies.
- ***Consideration of providing financial support to the Riverfront National Night Out.*** Event coordinator Amy Beckham gave a quick overview of the Riverfront National Night Out. She provided some detail on the 2011 income and expense report, identified some of the 2012 funders and responded to questions from board members. The Riverfront National Night Out group is requesting \$500 from the DMNA to help cover the cost of entertainment.

Hauer moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the \$500 contribution to the Riverfront National Night Out. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler abstained from voting.

David Tinjum from the Mill District Neighborhood Association asked if the DMNA would consider making a similar contribution to the Mill District National Night Out celebration. The board said it would consider the request if the Mill District group provided the same information as the Riverfront group.

- ***Appointment of electors and alternates for the NCEC elections.*** Rock explained that the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department is holding elections for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Board of Directors on Thursday, June 28. The DMNA Board needs to appoint an elector and alternate elector from Downtown East and Downtown West to vote for the District 5 neighborhood representative. There are two candidates running for this seat: DMNA board member Jesse Winkler and Kenya McKnight from the Near North neighborhood.

Christenson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to appoint Andy Hauer as the elector for Downtown West and Kathleen Anderson as the elector for Downtown East, to appoint Gerry Ewald for alternate elector for Downtown West and David Tinjum for alternate elector for Downtown East. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler abstained from voting.

Hauer moved and Christenson seconded a motion to appoint Gerry Ewald the alternate elector for Downtown West. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler abstained from voting.

Ewald moved and Christenson seconded a motion to appoint David Tinjum the alternate elector for Downtown East. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler abstained from voting.

IX. NRP Implementation Update

No report.

X. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from May 8, 2012; Consideration of Special Board Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2012; Consideration of June 2012 Financial Report; and Staff Report

Winkler moved and Laska seconded a motion to approve the May 8, 2012 board meeting minutes; the May 22, 2012 special board meeting minutes; to receive and file the June 2012 financial statements; and to receive and file Rock's staff report for the period from 5-5-12 to 6-8-12. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

XI. Old business / new business / other business

- ***Web site project update.*** Rock referred to information she provided to the board when she emailed the board packets. At the May 8, meeting the DMNA Board approved a \$1,500 budget for the Web site update; however, this would only cover the cost of a template Web site, not a custom-designed site. The Vivid Image quote notes the total cost for a custom site as \$2,500. As such, Rock is requesting that the board increase the Web site update budget by \$1,000.

Christenson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to increase the Web site update budget from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

- ***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.

- ***Consideration of appointment to the Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee.***

Ewald moved and Christenson seconded a motion to appoint Jesse Winkler as the DMNA liaison to the Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler abstained from voting.

- ***Court Watch.*** Wallace Swan is attending the July meeting; need someone for August.

- ***Consideration of appointment of liaison to the Mill District Neighborhood Association.***

Christenson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to appoint Eric Laska the DMNA liaison to the Mill District Neighborhood Association. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Chair

Secretary