

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 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
Paula Klimek
Wallace Swan
Carletta Sweet
Jesse Winkler

Board members absent were Andrea Christenson and Eric Laska.

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Joseph Banoli, McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb, Chartered (representing the Minnesota Sports Facility Authority)
Ryan Bjerke, Sinners Gentlemen's Club
Tom Dillon, Opus Group
Dan Young Dixon, Opus Group
Jacob Frey, Halunen & Associates
David Graham, ESG Architects
Clegg Hansen, Sisters' Camelot
Diane Hofstede, 3rd Ward City Council Member
Tom Lund, Opus Group
Tom Melchior, Larson Allen
Clive North, Sisters' Camelot

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Ewald noted that George Rosenquist was potentially going to be at the meeting to give an update on the Minneapolis Downtown Council. If he comes, he can give an update under old business. Winkler requested adding an update regarding the Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee under new business.

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

III. Land Use Report

Land Use Chair Andy Hauer commented that this was a historic meeting to have both a billion dollar stadium project and a wonderful new downtown commercial project brought before the board, then presented the following projects:

- ***Xcel New Headquarters Building (401 Nicollet Mall).*** Tom Dillon from Opus Development Group introduced himself, as well as the rest of the team working on the Xcel Energy Headquarters project, including his co-workers Dan Dixon and Tom Lund, and David Graham from ESG Architects. Dillon stated that Xcel Energy, in an effort to consolidate its downtown operations closer to its corporate headquarters at 414 Nicollet, entered into negotiations with them for a lease on a single tenant building many months ago. Then approximately 30 days ago they announced a lease for a new 9-story, 212,000 square foot building that will occupy the Baker parking ramp site on the southeast corner of South 4th Street and Nicollet Mall directly across from Xcel's current headquarters. This facility will effectively keep their 1,500 employees in downtown. Opus is under contract to buy the Baker parking ramp and operate it for another 2 years, then begin demolition in the third quarter of 2014 with a 20-month construction period. Xcel's 15-year lease with Opus begins in July 2016. Opus' planned Nicollet Residences project will occupy the other corner of the site on Nicollet Mall.

Dixon and Graham reviewed the site plan which will occupy one fourth of the block boarding on Nicollet Mall, and the architectural features of the building which will be compatible with Xcel's existing building and respectful to the library and other surrounding buildings in the adjacent area. They will follow the vision of the Downtown Council's 2025 Plan's green corridor extension along Nicollet Mall down to the riverfront.

Ewald moved and Klimek seconded the motion to approve the site plan for the new Xcel Energy Headquarters as presented and to prepare a letter of support. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock will prepare a letter of support for the proposed site plan and forward to Becca Farrar at the City.

Tom Lund from Opus Development Group then gave a brief update on the Nicollet Residence project. They are approximately a week to 10 days away from deciding which lender to go with then they will begin construction drawings and are shooting for a September groundbreaking.

- ***Minnesota Sports Facility Authority.*** Joseph Banoli, an attorney with McGrann Shea Carnival Straughn & Lamb, introduced himself and explained that he is representing the new Minnesota Sports Facility Authority. As part of the May 2012 law funding the new Vikings stadium project, the legislature abolished the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (the owner and operator of the Metrodome), giving the commission 90 days (to August 12th) to transfer its assets to its successor organization, the Minnesota Sports Facility Authority. The Authority needs to apply for a Class A liquor license to continue selling alcohol at the Metrodome until construction on the new sports venue is finished.

Winkler moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the Class A liquor license application for the Metrodome. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

- ***Sisters' Camelot Food Truck.*** Clive North gave an overview of the organization's mission and objectives, which includes offering free meals. They see the meal distribution program as a means to help create community in a neighborhood. The mobile food truck visits a different location every day and serves an evening meal between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. They are considering offering breakfast at some point in the future. They do not announce where they are going in advance. They typically park in locations where there is heavy pedestrian foot traffic, e.g., along the Midtown Greenway. They serve between 50 and 300 meals a day. They explained that they are seeking a downtown location to expand their work. They need a 40-foot space to park their truck. For more information about Sisters' Camelot, please visit <http://sisterscamelot.org/>.

Hauer advised that the DMNA will continue discussion on this item and would be in touch with them at a later date.

- ***Sinners Gentlemen's Club (121 Washington Avenue North).*** Ryan Bjerke, the owner of Sinners, introduced himself. He thanked the board for giving him the opportunity to meet with him in person. He apologized for not having contacted the organization before submitting his application for review by the Regulatory, Energy and Environment Committee. He explained his business operations and expressed an interest in working with the neighborhood organization on keeping the downtown community a safe place to live, work and visit.

Bjerke explained that he would propose to the Minneapolis Police Department that they create a universal non-admittance list in downtown establishments. A company called Token Works makes portable ID scanners for businesses that need to verify customers' age and then tag those who should be non-admitted. The data can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet and sent to the MPD for consolidation.

Sweet moved and Ewald seconded a motion to ratify the electronic ballot recommending approval of Sinners Gentlemen's Club's extended hours operating license. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed. Winkler requested that his electronic vote be changed from a no to a yes.

- ***Downtown Surface Parking Lot Study.*** Ewald moved and Winkler seconded a motion to nominate Eric Laska to serve on the City's Downtown Surface Parking Lot Study Advisory Committee. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.
- ***Minneapolis Club.*** Sweet moved and Ewald seconded a motion to ratify the electronic ballot recommending approval of the Minneapolis Club's expansion of premises application. Hauer called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Update

Hauer gave an update on the NCEC elections. He explained that due to the conflicting meeting hosted by EPNI with Mayor Rybak regarding the new Vikings stadium on the same evening, Winkler who was a candidate attended the EPNI meeting instead with himself, Ewald and Laska.

V. NRP Implementation Update

Ewald noted that Artspace withdrew its development rights to the Liner Parcel adjacent to the American Academy of Neurology in the Mill District.

VI. Consideration of Board Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2012

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

VII. Consideration of July 2012 Financial Report

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

VIII. Staff Report

Sweet moved and Winkler seconded a motion to receive and file Rock's staff report for the period 06-09-2012 to 07-06-2012. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. Old business / new business / other business

- **Annual Meeting Discussion.** Rock noted that she has contacted the Central Library regarding using Pohlad Hall for the October 9, 2012 meeting. Once Winkler expressed a preference not to hold it again at the Central Library and to move the time from 6-8 p.m. to 7-9 p.m., discussion ensued regarding other venues. Klimek indicated she would speak with Sheila Livingston (Director of Artistic Relations at the Guthrie) to find out whether any space is available and at what cost. Once the venue is determined, the board can finalize the time.

Thereafter, the board brainstormed on possible guest speakers, including incoming Police Chief Janée Harteau and/or Deputy Chief Kristine Arneson; Governor Dayton; Mark Stenglein, the new president and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council; Mayor Rybak; and Tom Hoch from the Hennepin Theatre Trust. Rock stated that she would contact the Mayor's Office, as well as the First Precinct.

Rock concluded by noting that she has started promoting the DMNA and advertising the annual meeting in the *Downtown Journal*.

- **Web site project update.** Rock gave an update on the Web site update project. She noted that she recently met with the project manager and Web designer from Vivid Image to start the process for redesigning the site. She anticipates having something to present to the board at the August 14, meeting.
- **Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee.** Winkler updated the board about his having been officially appointed to the Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee pursuant to a resolution passed by the Committee of the Whole at a meeting on June 29, 2012. He

provided a certified copy of the approved resolution and requested reimbursement of \$10 for the copy.

Ewald moved and Hauer seconded a motion to reimburse Winkler \$10 for the cost of the certified copy of the COW resolution. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with Winkler abstaining.

Hauer moved and Ewald seconded a motion to receive and file the certified copy of the COW resolution. Ewald called for discussion. The motion passed with Winkler abstaining.

- **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.
 - **Court Watch.** Wallace Swan is attending the July meeting and Paula Klimek will attend the August meeting.
 - **Big Gay Race.** Jacob Frey gave an update on the upcoming 5K Big Gay Race scheduled for Saturday, September 29. Proceeds from the event benefit Minnesota United for All Families. For more information, please visit: <http://mnunited.org/biggayrace/>.
 - **Marriage Amendment.** Frey then requested the DMNA's support for Minnesota United for All Families' position opposing the Marriage Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. Ewald advised that Rock had contacted the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department regarding this issue and whether the neighborhood could take a position. NCR Specialist Lance Knuckles in an email to Ewald said there is nothing preventing the DMNA Board from taking a position, but he encouraged the organization to consider a broad outreach effort to ensure that the position represents the majority of the downtown community. Frey will forward to Rock information on how other neighborhood associations handled the issue. Rock stated she could seek input from the community via a variety of means, including the Web site, Facebook and email list. Ewald stated that the board could consider taking a position on both Constitutional amendments (marriage and voter ID) at the August meeting.
 - **3rd Ward Update by Council Member Diane Hofstede.** Council Member Hofstede introduced herself to the board and thanked them for letting her attend the meeting, noting that her council seat would also be representing parts of the downtown community after the November election. Winkler requested an update on what's happening in the 3rd Ward across the river. She mentioned the growing concern about late night bar activity; Dominion Company's Pillsbury A Mill artists housing project; the Doran Companies luxury apartment project immediately adjacent to the A Mill; the RiverFirst initiative; and the Third Ward Neighborhood Fest on Wednesday, October 10th in the Nicollet Island Pavilion; and Marcy Holmes' opposition stance on the Crown Hydro project.

XI. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Chair

Secretary