

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 9, 2012

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 6:05 p.m. Other board members in attendance were:

Andrea Christenson
Andy Hauer, Land Use Committee Chair
Paula Klimek,
Eric Laska, Treasurer
Wally Swan, Secretary
Carletta Sweet
Jesse Winkler, Vice Chair

Guests in attendance included:

Derek Barnes, Minneapolis Police Department Sector Lieutenant
Nicholas Cichowicz, Target Corporation
Lola Danschar, Centre Village resident
Chris Dixon, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office
Jayson Drake
Eddie Frizell, Minneapolis Police Department First Precinct Inspector
Lisa Goodman, Ward 7 Council Member
Diane Hofstede, Ward 3 Council Member
Cheryl Kranz, Churchill resident
Jason Lake, Towers resident
Rufino Magno, The Atrium resident
Tom Melchior, CliftonLarsonAllen
Ashley Pizzato, Centre Village resident
Eric Roper, *Star Tribune*
Pamela Rodger
George Rosenquist, The Crossings resident
Alan Shilepsky, Towers resident
Lisa Soto
Mark Stenglein, Minneapolis Downtown Council, President and CEO
Anita Tabb, MPRB District 4 Commissioner
Jessica Vandenberg, US Bancorp
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident
Dale White, RiverWest resident
Ellen Wolfson, Towers resident

DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock was also present.

Ewald welcomed the audience, noted that he has been a director since 2008, and that he will be the host for the evening's proceedings.

He began the program by quoting some fun facts from the Minneapolis Public Works' website. Citywide there are:

- 7,000 parking meters
- 1,093 miles of roads
- 17 parking ramps
- 35,000 manholes
- 100,000 street signs

Representing the interest of nearly 40,000 who live, work and own property in the downtown community, the DMNA members are privileged to have a part in influencing some of those myriad facts and figures as they pertain to our neighborhood.

Ewald explained that the DMNA is the official organization for the Downtown East and Downtown West neighborhoods. Our mission is to promote the common good and general welfare of the residents, businesses and employees of downtown Minneapolis. We conduct monthly meetings, support neighborhood improvement projects, and review and comment on commercial and residential proposals and projects that are making their way through the City approval process. The DMNA board has been very pleased to see presentations on a large number of new projects in the downtown neighborhood from additional rental housing and condominium units to a new football stadium. These housing, retail and entertainment opportunities are sure to enhance the vibrancy of our downtown community. We especially appreciate the time, dedication and hard work of the City leaders for their vision and determination to help these projects become a reality.

Thereafter, Ewald gave a brief update of the DMNA's activities over the past year.

II. DMNA's 2012 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

- Met with Tim Mahoney, owner of the Loon Café and president of the Warehouse Business District Association, and Inspector Eddie Frizell to review and discuss crime and safety issues in the Warehouse District.
- Contributed \$25,000 to the Minneapolis Police Department's First Precinct and the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District to add lighting on North 4th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues North.
- Contributed \$1,500 to the Minneapolis Police Department's First Precinct for the purchase of car seats for the transportation of children to St. Joseph's Home for Children and other emergency shelters.
- Continued to participate in the Downtown Court Watch/Downtown 100 effort.

Under Downtown Development

- Reviewed and discussed the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition's proposal to add bike lanes to Washington Avenue during the reconstruction project slated for 2014.
- Designated a DMNA representative to provide input on the Downtown Surface Parking Lot Study.
- Provided input on the Plan-It Hennepin plan.
- Provided input on the Nicollet-Central Avenue Transit Alternatives Project.
- 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 (DEEP) district business community (www.edcmpls.org);
 - Mill District Neighborhood Group whose mission is to address needs, concerns and aspirations of all who live, work and play in the Mill District within the greater Downtown East neighborhood <http://millcitytimes.com/community/>;
 - 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 Partnership which was established, at the request of the City and MPRB, to support and implement riverfront revitalization (www.minneapolisriverfrontpartnership.org);
 - Minneapolis Parks Foundation whose mission is to create the Next Generation of Parks™ (e.g., Water Works and RiverFirst) <http://mplsparksfoundation.org/>;
 - Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN), a statewide association that informs, promotes, connects and strengthens individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector www.minnesotanonprofits.org;
 - Vikings' Stadium Implementation Committee that is tasked with making recommendations on the design plans submitted for the stadium, and stadium infrastructure, and related improvements;
 - 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.:
 - The Brick (111 North 5th Street) – liquor license
 - Maruso Street Food and Bar (715 Hennepin Avenue) – liquor license
 - Izzy's Ice Cream (1100 South 2nd Street) – site plan
 - Soo Line Building (101 South 5th Street) – site plan
 - Cowboy Jacks (126 North 5th Street) – liquor
 - The PourHouse (10 South 5th Street, formerly Spin nightclub) – liquor license

- 731 Hennepin Avenue (former Shinders site) – site plan Shea headquarters and Union Restaurant
- 1001-1013 Nicollet Mall and 81-87 South 10th Street – Target expansion
- Orchestra Hall – renovation and expansion project
- Copper Pot Indian Grill (10 South 5th Street) – liquor license
- Graves 601 Hotel – liquor license
- Xcel Energy – site plan for headquarters
- Sinners Nightclub – liquor license
- Insert Coin(s) Video Gaming Lounge (315 1st Avenue North) – liquor license
- Park Vista (110 and 124 12th Avenue South and 1102 South 2nd Street) – site plan
- The Lamoreaux (706 1st Avenue North) and the Continental (66 South 12th Street) – letter of support for renovation projects
- Marimark Apartments (1226 Marquette Avenue South) – Westminster Presbyterian Church expansion project
- The Belmore (25 North 4th Street) – liquor license

Under NRP Implementation

- Established an ad-hoc committee to begin the process for implementing the NRP Phase II Affordable Housing Fund.

Under NCEC Community Participation Program

- Appointed electors and alternates to participate in the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission’s annual election process.
- Contributed \$4,500 in Community Participation Program funds to the Mill City Farmers Market for sponsorship of weekly musical performances.
- Contributed \$500 to the Riverfront National Night Out.
- Made significant updates to the DMNA Web site, www.thedmna.org.

Ewald then introduced the current DMNA Board of Directors and DMNA staff person Christie Rock then asked Swan to say a few words about his involvement on the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

Swan advised that the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is the largest state association of nonprofits in the United States. It has over 2,000 organizations as members and provides resources, training and information to help nonprofits do their job better. DMNA is a member and he serves as its representative. MCN essentially saves nonprofits time and money, provides timely resources and training and protects the nonprofit sector with legal advice. Each year he attends its statewide conference that is conducted jointly with the Minnesota Council of Foundations. This year’s conference will be over at the St. Paul River Center on November 1st and 2nd and is called Allied for Action: Bridging Differences for the Common Good. He plans to bring back to the board information from some of the many workshops that will be held. This is another way to further strengthen the downtown neighborhood.

III. 7th Ward Update

Council Member Lisa Goodman thanked Ewald for his fine review of the types of things the DMNA has been working on during the year. She then thanked the DMNA Board for all their

time and efforts performing a completely volunteer job that, for a number of people, could amount to hours every day within their regular workday for which she is very grateful and encouraged others who have the time to do so to serve as well. She also thanked Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock for all her hard work.

Goodman stated that at this time of year there are really two things they talk about – money and elections:

- **2013 City Budget.** The City is in its budget process now to determine what their priorities are for 2013 (i.e., make choices about what's important – are police more important than potholes, are bike lanes more important than firefighters). Everyone has an opportunity to participate in this process and tell them what you think those priorities should be. There are two budget hearings coming up: one on Wednesday, November 28th and Wednesday, December 12th. Both hearings are at 6:05 p.m. in Room 317 of City Hall. The legislature did away with the requirement that you had to have these hearings, however, it has been her experience that they get a lot of information in these hearings. In particular, in the first public hearing where the Mayor has proposed a budget and the City Council has made some preliminary decisions, the public then gives feedback on what they believe should be the priorities and what they perceive to be deficiencies and overages. As a result, she has seen some very dramatic changes to the budget and encouraged the audience to become engaged in the process <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/>.
- **November 6th Elections.** They are heading into the state and federal elections and in the process of having absentee and in-person voting. You can come to City Hall up until the day of election and vote in advance and you can also still register to vote on the day of election. Advance voter registration ends soon so she is encouraging people to participate in this process http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/elections_elections-works.

And to further clarify, there are no elections this year for municipal positions (i.e., Park Board, City Council and Mayor); this will take place in November 2013. And due to redistricting the new boundaries will not go into effect until after a new person is elected and sworn in so as of now she remains our City Council Member.

Goodman then entertained questions from the audience. Thereafter she announced:

- **Lunch with Lisa.** There is one more Lunch with Lisa this year on Halloween, Wednesday, October 31st at the University of St. Thomas in Room 252. You don't need to wear a costume. The topic will be the voter suppression amendment, the effort to push voter ID. The reason the City has taken a strong stance against this is because of the cost to the taxpayers with regard to what kinds of changes would have to be made to the election system.
- **Later with Lisa.** There will be a Later with Lisa on December 13th at the Normandy Inn.

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.

IV. 3rd Ward Update

3rd Ward Council Member Diane Hofstede thanked those who work so hard for their neighborhood. She then announced the upcoming Third Ward Neighborhood Fest tomorrow, Wednesday, October 10th, 5:30-9:00 p.m. at the Nicollet Island Pavilion. This annual free festival will feature free food and tastings, entertainment (Vikings players and mascots), and exhibits related to the businesses and services within the community. Initially their priorities were public safety, working to improve businesses, and expand the residential area. As an outgrowth of that effort, another priority emerged: getting to know each other, person-to-person. Thus this annual festival was born.

V. 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:

- **Central Mississippi Riverfront Regional Park Master Plan.** The MPRB is kicking off this project that covers parkland on both sides of the river between the Plymouth Avenue Bridge and the I-35 W Bridge. They are in the process of doing some preliminary stakeholder engagement, scoping out the work, and make sure they have names of people who are interested in participating. The kick-off meetings will be in the late December/early 2013 time frame. They are encouraging as much community participation as possible. To remain informed about this or any other news or development, register at <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1086>.
- **RiverFirst.** This is the Park Design Proposal and Implementation Plan for the Minneapolis Upper Riverfront. They started at the 100,000-foot level, went down to the 50,000-foot level, and now are kind of down to the 20,000-foot level, i.e., where the rubber hits the road. They are anticipating public open houses in late 2012/early 2013. The areas they are concentrating on Above the Falls include:
 - Scherer Bothers Lumber property
 - 26th Avenue North
 - 22nd Avenue NortheastFor more information visit <http://riverfirst.com/>.
- **Water Works.** They continue to forge ahead with the Minneapolis Parks Foundation on this project.
- **Crown Hydro LLC.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) sent them a letter advising that they may revoke its license because it has failed to complete construction of the project as licensed and indications are that they will be unable to do so in the foreseeable future. Crown Hydro responded by advising they are continuing to pursue land owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

After a brief Q&A, Tabb also thanked the DMNA Board for the work it does to make downtown Minneapolis a great place to live and work.

VI. Minneapolis Downtown Council / 2025 Plan Update

Mark Stenglein, president and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council who previously served on the Hennepin County Board, gave a slide show presentation of its history and an overview of the 2025 Plan. Following are the 10 principles of the Plan; he'll be looking toward the DMNA for help on all of them.

- Double downtown's residential population. Historically they have been interested on business only; that will now change. He will engage citizenry and that is his mission. Of all of these principles, this is the most accomplishable.
- Transform the Nicollet Mall into a "must see" destination.
- Build Gateway Park.
- Create a compelling downtown experience.
- Establish a downtown sports district that includes a new Vikings stadium.
- Lead the nation in transportation options.
- Create and sustain a green infrastructure and showcase the riverfront. He proudly announced the Lowry Avenue Bridge grand opening on Saturday, October 27th. It's a \$100 million investment and an important neighborhood connection to the riverfront <http://www.lowryavenuebridge.com/Default.aspx>.
- Forge connections to the University of Minnesota. The Central Corridor will help knit that connection.
- End street homelessness. It's a lofty goal but we've got some of the greatest social service agencies in this area bar none.
- Launch a festival of ideas and civic engagement.

After a brief Q&A, Stenglein concluded by thanking the DMNA Board for giving him the opportunity to speak, and stressed that the MDC will continue to seek input from neighborhood residents throughout the 2025 Plan implementation process. For more information about the plan visit <http://www.downtownmpls.com/page/show/423275-2025-plan>.

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 eight candidates: Nicholas Cichowicz, Gerry Ewald, Rufino Magno, Paula Klimek, Kevin Ringdahl (who was not in attendance), George Rosenquist, Carletta Sweet, and Jessie Winkler.

The LWV called for nominations from the floor. With no additional nominations were offered, the LWV closed the nominations then gave the seven 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

Ewald announced that the DMNA had just awarded \$25,000 of its NRP Phase II Crime and Safety funds to the DID SafeZone for the installation of additional lighting on North 4th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues North, and \$1,500 to the Minneapolis Police Department for convertible car seats for the transportation of young children to St. Joseph's Home for Children and other emergency shelters. Then he introduced MPD First Precinct Inspector Eddie Frizell.

Frizell introduced himself and stated that he had spent well over a year in Iraq and has been back exactly 6 months and this is his first taste of reintegration with a Minnesota winter. During his 6 months back, the work he has been engaged in has been very dynamic. He started by making a fresh assessment with new eyes on the downtown area – Downtown East and West – and what he saw showed exactly some of the things that have been illustrated this evening. People are moving back into the core of downtown and it's becoming more residential. People are starting to not only work and seek entertainment downtown but to live here as well. He has looked into things that before he left were only in some of the textbooks and law enforcement classes, i.e., safety by environmental design. Mark Stenglein showed you what Minneapolis looked like 75-80 years ago. The Warehouse District was indeed a warehouse district where everyone went home with their lunch buckets at 5 o'clock and the lighting didn't need to be there and you didn't need people patrolling the area; it was indeed a place where people worked during the day. But now that people are living and congregating there you have to look at some of the safety issues that are presenting themselves. Thinking outside of the box they did an environmental check of all the lighting in downtown and found it to be substandard for a city of our size; it is too dark in the area and there's the perception that bad things happen in the dark. Working in collaboration with the Mayor's office, the City Council, DMNA, City Attorney's Office, the Downtown Council and the Warehouse District Business Association, they walked all the dark alleys throughout downtown to get a firsthand view of the situation. As a consequence, they developed a proposal that they brought to the DMNA to increase the lighting.

As background, Frizell explained that almost 80% of Part 1 Crimes were taking place between 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. along the epicenter of the entertainment district – North 4th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues North. Just by placing the mobile camera and lighting the area with the mobile lighting system it proved the analysis that more lighting chases those who are down here for nefarious acts out of their cubbyholes and away from the unwary. The DID said it would match the DMNA with what it would take to put up permanent lighting and bring it above standard. Having received the great news from the DMNA this evening means within the next 2 weeks he's going to turn 4th Street into a runway to create a safe corridor for individuals to connect from Hennepin Avenue, 1st Avenue North, back up towards the North Loop. Then he enthusiastically thanked the DMNA for its contribution.

Frizell then explained that the DMNA had asked him to submit a proposal requesting funding for a project the MPD needed assistance with to help them perform their duties. He challenged his officers and they came up with replacement of the outdated and precarious convertible car seats for the transport of children. Now he can go back to the 1st Precinct and give them the good news. It gives him a warm feeling that when police officers who put their lives on the line every single night, when asked what to do with neighborhood funding they chose to protect the children they transport. Frizell then asked the audience to give his team a round of applause.

Further regarding safety by environmental design, Frizell explained that they looked at Nicollet

Mall to determine what they could do to facilitate the feeling of safe passage through the half block mass of humanity during rush hour at the bus stop that has grown to be the busiest in the state – South 7th Street and Nicollet Mall. Once again in partnership with businesses, residents, the Mayor’s office, City Council, Downtown Council, Metro Transit they came up with a WalkSafe pilot program to define walking and waiting areas that will hopefully alleviate the congestion. When you use the strategy of safety by environmental design it helps him to understand as a police officer that you can’t police yourself out of everything. You have to think about the overall impact, be collaborative with everyone who is willing to help, and make sure when you come before the DMNA you give them your thanks.

After a brief Q&A, Frizell concluded by thanking the DMNA for its support.

IX. Election Announcement

League of Women volunteers returned to the podium and announced the newly elected board members: Nicholas Cichowicz, Gerry Ewald, Carletta Sweet and Jessie Winkler.

X. Adjournment

Ewald congratulated the incumbents and the newly elected board member Nicholas Cichowicz, and thanked outgoing board member Paula Klimek. 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 7:45 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2012

Chair _____

Secretary _____