

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes from the Board Meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2014  
Mill City Museum, 7th Floor, Cargill Room  
710 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN**

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Board Chair Nick Cichowicz called the board meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Other board members in attendance were:

Chad DiDonato, Vice Chair  
Gerry Ewald, Treasurer  
Laurie Jones  
Claudia Kittock  
Carletta Sweet  
Peter Zenner, Secretary

Board member Jesse Winkler was absent.

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was present.

Guests in attendance were:

Kevin Arrowood, Rick's Cabaret International  
Jon Fletcher, Alatus, LLC  
Kevin Frazell, Zenith Condos  
Jacob Frey, Third Ward City Council Member  
Kate Grutzmacher, FirstService Residential  
Maggie Larson, Stone Mountain Pet Lodge  
Jonathon Septer, Messerli & Kramer  
Jacqui Taylor, Provident Real Estate Ventures and Stone Mountain Pet Lodge  
David Tinjum, Mill District Neighborhood Association  
Doug Verdier, RiverWest resident

**II. Consideration of the Agenda**

*Ewald moved and Kittock seconded a motion to approve the September 4, 2014 board meeting agenda. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**III. Public Comment**

No one stepped forward to offer public comment.

#### **IV. Guest Presentations / Speakers**

Third Ward City Council Member Jacob Frey updated the board on the following:

- Major headway has been made in getting a MPD substation in the Ryan project associated with Block 1 in Downtown East. It is proposed that they would carve out retail space on the ground floor in one of the Wells Fargo buildings for this purpose.
- On Saturday, August 30th he helped organize Brit's Pub Vault, a professional pole vault competition held on the roof of Brit's Pub at 1110 Nicollet Mall. It is a prelude to a full on downtown Olympic track meet next week. They are moving away from stagnate events like the Holidazzle and toward experiential events like the Winter Carnival and Northern Spark.

#### **V. Consideration of Consent Agenda**

*Ewald moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the August 7, 2014 board meeting minutes; September 2014 Financial Reports; and August Staff Report. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### **VI. Community Development Update**

In the absence of Jesse Winkler, Cichowicz facilitated this portion of the meeting agenda.

##### *Centre Village*

Jon Fletcher from Alatus, LLC introduced himself and explained that Alatus is seeking the DMNA's support for a zoning ordinance amendment to allow for a luxury pet care provider to locate in the downtown community. The proposed location for this type of business is Centre Village located at 433 South 7th Street South. The current ordinance does not allow "doggie daycare" in the Downtown West neighborhood.

Fletcher introduced representatives from Stone Mountain Pet Lodge, a luxury pet care provider that is interested in opening a location in Centre Village. Maggie Larson acted as the spokesperson for the group. She distributed handouts and went through a PowerPoint presentation that explained the business operations and the services they hope to bring to downtown residents.

After Larson concluded her presentation, Cichowicz opened the meeting up to questions. Several board members asked about the hours of operation and whether there would be overnight boarding available. Larson stated that at this point, there will not be overnight care. If it was needed by a downtown resident, the dog would be transferred to the Stone Mountain Pet Lodge facility in Blaine, Minnesota. Another board member inquired about whether the dogs staying at the facility would be exercised outside during the day. Larson said no. The business would be entirely contained inside. After some discussion,

*Sweet moved and Kittock seconded a motion to provide a letter of support to Alatus for amending the City's Zoning Ordinance to allow for luxury pet care providers in the downtown zoning district, specifically for doggie daycare and not for overnight or extended care. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### ***RCI Entertainment dba Rick's Cabaret***

Kevin Arrowood from RCI Entertainment and Jonathon Septer from Messerli & Kramer introduced themselves to the board. They are seeking a letter of support from the DMNA for a permanent expansion of premises application and a sidewalk café license for Rick's Cabaret located at 300 South 3rd Street.

Arrowood advised they have 46 locations nationwide two of which are located in Minneapolis: Rick's Cabaret at 300 South 3rd Street which just celebrated its 16th anniversary; and Downtown Cabaret (formerly Shiek's) located at 115 South 4th Street. They are publicly traded on the NASDAQ at about a \$150 million market cap.

Arrow then reviewed the site plan explaining that they currently have a 16 foot by 40 foot smoking-only patio but would like to build out and place three cabanas over it and turn it into a fully functional bar and cigar lounge that could be used 10 months a year. This space will have seating for 26 and they have gone for a capacity of 50. They would also like a sidewalk café along the South 3rd Street side of the property. Minneapolis Lead Inspector Michele Harvet has granted them a 3-foot-wide area from the side of the building stretching from the entrance to the alley. This space would accommodate 5-8 tables surrounded by sconces and they will offer full service beverages and food with no entertainment. The hours of operation for both outdoor spaces will be the same as the interior space. For security purposes, staff will monitor areas for noise and trash issues.

After some discussion,

*Jones moved and Sweet seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for RCI Entertainment / Rick's Cabaret for a permanent expansion of premises application as well as a sidewalk café license. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### ***Pedestrian / Vehicle Accidents at North 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue North I-94/I-394 Entrance Ramps in Downtown West***

Cichowicz advised that Sweet brought this matter to the DMNA's attention and a document was included in the board package. She explained that DJ Heinle of the North Loop Neighborhood Association forwarded the information that was presented at their Planning and Zoning Committee in August. Zachariah Schaap, a neighborhood resident, had witnessed the excessive pedestrian / vehicle incidents taking place at this intersection. Because the intersection is actually in the Downtown West neighborhood, Heinle thought that the DMNA should also know about the situation and have the opportunity to provide feedback. Schaap and Heinle are asking the DMNA to support the NLNA efforts to get the City, Hennepin County and/or MNDOT to increase single control and signage at this entrance ramp.

*Jones moved and Kittock seconded a motion to provide a letter to the City's Traffic Department, requesting that they take immediate action to reduce the number of pedestrian / vehicle accidents taking place at North 3rd Street / 2d Avenue North entrance ramp to I-94/I-394, whether by increased signage or signal control. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### ***Preemptive Measures for LRT Green Line***

Cichowicz advised that Sweet also brought this matter to the DMNA's attention by DJ Heinle of the NLNA who heard Brian Funk, the Light Rail Operations Director for Metro Transit, speak at a recent meeting to discuss problems the Green Line has experienced since it opened this summer. For clarification, Sweet read the NLNA's letter which recommended that "Metro Transit address Green Line train operation slowness by a combination of all these measures he is current evaluating, i.e., advanced notification of signal devices, super preemption for St. Paul's downtown, and limited or staggered stop train service, and we support your intent to obtain other jurisdictional authorizations and recognize that these would enhance ridership and decreased travel times to our neighborhoods." Although the line is exceeding ridership projections, the line has been running very slow from downtown St. Paul to downtown Minneapolis. Funk outlined a number of options that Metro Transit has to improve the efficiency of the Green Line. The NLNA passed a motion recommending that Metro Transit implement the following preemptive measures to improve the operations of the Green Line: advanced notification of signal devices, super preemption for St. Paul's downtown and limited or staggered stop service. Sweet recommended that the DMNA Board send a letter to Brian Funk supporting the recommendations made by the NLNA.

*DiDonato moved and Sweet seconded a motion to send a letter of support using similar language as that used by the NLNA supporting the preemptive measures to improve the overall operations of the Green Line. Cichowicz called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **VIII. Other Committee Updates**

### **Outreach and Engagement**

Jones and Zenner summarized the outcome of the O&E committee meeting held prior to the instant meeting the purpose for which was to review the agenda for the October 21, Annual Meeting. Jones advised that the concept for the presentation is to take people into the future and paint the picture of what downtown is going to look like in October 2016. Zenner has already prepared a great preliminary video of what it's going to look like then evolve into a discussion on creating a vibrant downtown area focusing on four key areas: homelessness with the outreach worker; crime and safety with First and Second Precinct representatives; the Webster School update; and the downtown community with Steve Cramer. Each topic will be covered individually and have a video overview interviewing stakeholders within each area. Zenner advised that he will reach out to everybody so that they have a chance to review the video and ascertain if there are any objections.

Jones noted that the key thing for messaging that resonated with people who had input is to not only talk about how these are specific things that the DMNA has been involved with, but to call out exactly what it has done and ask for community support for these issues, e.g., looking for funding for years 2 and 3 for the outreach worker, looking for funding for the MPD substation, and to start to get people ready to get involved; a call to action for each topic. They'll wrap up with the announcement of the election.

What Jones would really like to see the DMNA do is to end with statements of gratitude whether it's highlighting volunteers, specific programs or key partners. Cichowicz noted that the reason for doing the four topics the way they are is to acknowledge our partners so tying it up at the end is really important.

Discussion ensued about who would facilitate and whether board members should introduce the topic in which they are engaged; whether to collect base line information on candidates from a template for continuity along with a picture for posting on website in advance as well as displaying on the screen. Rock suggested these be submitted 2 weeks in advance for review. Cichowicz suggested moving ahead with this process and the board agreed.

Then the following next steps were discussed:

Cichowicz will confirm Steve Cramer – presentation, content and ask; and reach out to Dan Collison and ask if he'd like to participate.

Kittock will confirm the Webster School and Outreach Worker details as well as the preparation of the survey monkey to obtain feedback.

DiDonato will ask Inspector Medaria Arradondo to provide a First Precinct update discussion.

Zenner will get together with Council Member Frey to go through the logistics and the video; determine whether Council Goodman is attending and if so whether she would collaborate with Frey; and reach out to all the developers to determine if they're comfortable with the video.

Kate Grutzmacher from FirstService Residential asked how the DMNA was going to raise awareness about itself to inform residents about what it does. Rock asked Grutzmacher if she had emails for her tenants and condo owners so she could forward the DMNA flyer. Grutzmacher said she would help but that the DMNA could also go online. Jones will take the lead on this process.

#### **IX. Next Monthly Board Meeting**

Cichowicz advised that normally in the past the monthly board meeting would be conducted just prior to the annual meeting and asked the board whether it should continue that process or to conduct it separately on October 2, 2014. After a brief discussion it was decided to keep the monthly board meeting on the first Thursday in October.

**X. Old Business / New Business / Other Business**

Please refer to the Outreach and Engagement Chart distributed via email. Then Cichowicz updated the board on the DID Tactical Urbanism Task Force. They meet about three times a month. If you've been downtown by McCormick and Schmidt, the sidewalk setup changed where it went inside of the sidewalk on Nicollet Mall as an experiment because that's the future of Nicollet Mall to see how it affects traffic, loitering and how it gets people moving through. Tactical urbanism says how you can change space to make people feel safer, move through places and stop in certain places. The most exciting thing they were involved with in the last 6 months was a collaboration with the University of Minnesota and the first-ever street furniture class. They and the MDC took over first floor space in City Center near the bus stop on Nicollet Mall and made it into a lab where students made street furniture. They made leaning walls and movable chairs to determine how their positions impacted how people move around.

Moving into winter months there are different ideas and working on different projects looking at street corners, and working with Metro Transit on bus stops.

**XI. Adjournment**

*DiDonato moved and Kittock seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.*

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary