

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2015 Mill City Museum - ADM Room 704 South 2nd Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Board Chair Chad DiDonato called the board meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Other board members in attendance were:

Nick Cichowicz
Laurie Jones, Vice Chair
Claudia Kittock
Ken Searl
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
David Tinjum
Peter Zenner, Treasurer

Staff members Joan Bennett and Christie Rock Hantge were also present.

Guests in attendance were:

Christine Anderson, The Carlyle
Denise Holt, Park Avenue Lofts
Liz Kane, Bridgewater
Ginger Kranz, Webster School
Randy Manthey, The Carlyle
Eric Schned, Bookmen Stacks
Sabina Sten, RiverWest
Doug Verdier, RiverWest

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Sweet moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the January 19, 2015 board meeting agenda. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Consent Agenda

Sweet moved and Cichowicz seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the December 4, 2014 board meeting minutes and Hantge's 12-01-14 to 12-31-14 staff report. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Financial Report

Zenner advised that he and Rock would be getting together over the next couple weeks to determine the best way of clearly reporting the FY2015 Budget to the board.

Rock then reported on the FY2014 Budget vs. Actual as of December 2014 that was included in the board packet; there is nothing unusual to report for December. She noted that they now

have in hand the 20% advancement from the Minnesota Historical Society legacy grant for the North Star Lofts sign rehabilitation project. The intent is to begin work in March and she anticipates they will begin soon thereafter submitting payment requests for the vendors. Also, the DMNA received a \$100 donation in December from someone who went through the Restorative Justice Community Action program (<http://www.rjca-inc.org/>).

Tinjum moved and Jones seconded a motion to receive and file the January 2015 financial report. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Guest Presentation

- **Webster Elementary School Update.** Ginger Kranz, Principal, thanked the DMNA for the opportunity to speak tonight as well as at its October 2014 annual meeting. Then she distributed a brochure and encouraged the audience to take as many as they needed to help spread the word. The brochure is also available in Somali and Spanish.

Kranz advised she met with Kittock regarding working with the DMNA to possibly donate items for three projects for which she doesn't have exact dollar figures as it will depend on what the board wishes to do:

1. *T-Shirts.* In collaboration with the DMNA and other neighborhood associations in Attendance Area 1G boundaries, create t-shirts for all the kids, staff and volunteers of Webster with the respective participants' logos on them to help build community and to identify neighborhoods from where students will be drawn.
2. *Welcome Baskets.* Create gift baskets for new teachers that include products and items from local businesses. This idea stems from when she started another new school and the local business organization put these baskets together. This was useful because many of the teachers did not live in the community and it helped acquaint them to the local businesses. Realtors are also good connectors and she is open to working with them to pull this together.
3. *Spring or Summer Community Gatherings.* Organize two for families with children prior to the start of the 2015 school year: depending on the budget, an event in the spring, and an open house sometime in July or August.

When asked how she would rank these projects, Kranz stated she presented in the order of rank. Kittock advised that they have a list of all the neighborhood associations within the Attendance Area and have asked them to participate in these projects. None of the projects will cost very much and a lot of it is footwork and working the phones. The critical issue this first year is getting people aware that there's a school and t-shirts are an easy way to advertise.

Enrollment hasn't begun (the priority enrollment deadline is February 28th) but they project around 120 students pulled from five Attendance Areas. Webster will be a K-2 for the 2015-2016 school year and will add one grade every year thereafter until it becomes a K-5. And depending upon data requests, they also hope to have a pre-school program.

Kranz is working on a curriculum proposal for what she'll purchase for the first year and

some of it is already slated as a standard MPS curriculum, but she wants to have a lot of innovative spaces, i.e., makerspaces (<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/designing-a-school-makerspace-jennifer-cooper>) and materials kids can interact with either impromptu or through guidance and can run the gamut from \$1,000 to \$10,000. They also have a strong technology budget to furnish two computer labs for the opening.

Kittock who is the volunteer coordinator for Webster advised that one of the big things they will do is have a “literacy hour” each day with everyone in the building including bus drivers, cafeteria workers and janitors who will stop by and read, talk and help the kids. Kranz added that the reason behind this is to create strong intergenerational relationships. Kranz has a document of volunteer opportunities especially for the start of the school year and one of them is related to dining during the lunch hour. Bertrand Weber, Director of Culinary and Nutrition Services, has been in support of her progressive ideas.

Kranz has been involved in a lot of community engagement and has been to all but one neighborhood association meeting at least once and have knocked on doors of churches and distributed brochures to other organizations and they have been welcoming.

Currently, there is a “Friends of Webster School” group and she hopes it morphs into the Parent Teacher Association who can take over fundraising.

Thereafter, she entertained questions from the audience during which Denise Holt briefed the audience on the Downtown Families and announced that it is hosting a Fancy Pants Winter Dance on Saturday, January 24th at ElseWarehouse 7th Floor Club Room, 730 Washington Avenue North from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/events/1590271007871142/?ref_newsfeed_story_type=regular. Follow updates on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MPS.WebsterElem>.

VI. Old / New / Other Business

- *Consideration of DMNA representation to the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 3.* Rock explained that the DMNA has typically sent a contingent of board members to attend the MDC Annual Meeting. The cost to attend the lunch event is \$50 per person. Nick Cichowicz, Claudia Kittock, Carletta Sweet and Dave Tinjum expressed an interest in attending the event on behalf of the DMNA.

Jones moved and Kittock seconded a motion to approve the \$200 expenditure. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

Rock stated she would register the four board members named above.

- *Continued discussion regarding the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Greening Minneapolis Task Force.* Cichowicz stated that the task force met in December and there is another meeting coming up in January. The board will continue discussion on this item at the February 16, meeting.
- *Outreach and Collaboration with Other Downtown Organizations.*

- **Court Watch.** Kittock reported that in January they put out the list for the 100 top offenders and had to go with considerably fewer violations to get numbers so the good news is the number of violations are down the majority of which are livability issues.

For more information visit <http://www.hennepinattorney.org/prevention/community-partnerships/court-watch>.

- **Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership.** Tinjum announced they are hosting a Riverfront Vitality Forum entitled “Minneapolis after the Lock: Unlocking New Opportunities” at the Mill City Museum Mill Commons on Thursday, January 22nd beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will feature a panel of experts who will discuss the economic, cultural and ecological impact of the closing.

For more information and to RSVP visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/riverfront-vitality-forum-minneapolis-after-the-lock-unlocking-new-opportunities-tickets-15142732320?aff=eac2>.

For more information on the MRP visit <http://minneapolisriverfrontpartnership.org/>.

- **Nicollet Mall Livability Working Group.** Cichowicz reported that this group met over a number of months to put together the information Steve Cramer shared about priorities for Nicollet Mall and then referenced *The Journal* article <http://www.journalmpls.com/voices-feed/making-nicollet-mall-safe-and-welcoming-for-all>. It was a great opportunity for the DMNA to be a part of this MDC effort.

- **Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District Tactical Urbanism Task Force.** Cichowicz reported that this task force meets approximately twice a month and will continue to address safety in downtown and how changing the environment make the place feel and be safer.

- **MPRB's Downtown Service Area Master Plan CAC.** Sweet reported that at the January 15th meeting an update on the community engagement plan and Technical Advisory Committee report was given. They also conducted small group parks envisioning exercise by defining character of existing parks, identifying corridor gaps, and identifying park areas followed by group map presentations.

For more information on the MPRB's Downtown Service Area Master Plan, please go to: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1508>.

- **2025 Plan Task Force to End Street Homelessness.** Kittock advised that there is a proposal for a sober house.
- **Downtown Neighborhoods Group.** Sweet reported that at the last meeting, EPNI Executive Director Lynn Regnier discussed the McKnight Foundation grant that funded a strategic planning process that she, Tinjum and several other stakeholders were a part of this past summer/early fall. The findings of that process were taken back to the EPNI board for review and ranking of internal and external future scenarios. EPNI will likely present the findings before the DMNA since one of the favorite external scenarios focuses on building external relationships and collaborations with organizational

partners and will seek an additional grant from McKnight to implement.

- ***Minneapolis Riverfront Homeowners Association Collaboration.*** Jones announced that the next meeting of this group is on Tuesday, February 3rd at The Carlyle. The key topics on the agenda are community engagement within the condominium associations, share best practices around the new security committee The Carlyle established, and dog owners responsibilities.

One of the great things done in 2014 was a leadership meeting hosted by Shelly Stoner of the Phoenix. All of the board members were invited to honor their commitment and participation in serving on their HOAs. They have already penciled in November 19, 2015 and will be looking for sponsors.

For other updates, please reference the Outreach and Collaboration chart Sweet provided in advance of the meeting.

VII. Strategic Thinking / Planning Discussion

- ***Future Meeting Topics / Board or Community Forum.*** Referencing the January 19th Board Meeting Agenda Addendum included in the board package, DiDonato thanked Hantge for assembling the who, why and ask for future presenters and then reviewed the following speakers / presentations identified as priorities for the February 16th board meeting:
 - *Mile in My Shoes.* This is a project Kittock proposed at an Executive Committee meeting stemming from her work on the Task Force to End Street Homelessness.
 - *Introduction of Kenya McKnight, NCEC 5th District Commissioner.* Due to the Martin Luther King holiday, Kenya was unable to attend as indicated under the Guest Presentation portion of the agenda and asked to be moved the February board meeting.
 - *Introduction of Toni Newborn, Assistant Director of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department.* This department's goal is to get out and introduce themselves to all neighborhood groups and has yet to do so with the DMNA.
 - *Mill City Farmers Market.* Received inquiry from Brenda Langton who is hoping to come before the DMNA in February to appeal for continued sponsorship of the market's music for this year.
 - *Hennepin Cultural District Branding Campaign.* Tom Hoch contacted Hantge in mid December about the results of this campaign process and the plan developed and how the neighborhood groups can become involved. And as the new incoming chair of the Minneapolis Downtown Council he would like to discuss how their relationship with the DMNA has grown and how to strengthen it.
 - *Nicollet Avenue Streetcar Study.* Contacted by Zan Associates to share results of study.
 - *Il Foro Restaurant.* Presentation by Contacted by Burt Coffin from ESG Architects last week regarding the re-opening of the former *Forum Restaurant* and request for a letter of support for submission to City staff by February 17th.
 - *205 Park Avenue.* Contacted by City staff person Emily Stern regarding Interim Parking Lease and future plans to issue RFP and request for a letter of support.
 - *Minneapolis Police Department.* Contacted by 1st Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist Renée Allen regarding introducing the new 1t Precinct Inspector Medaria Arradondo.

- *Hoodstarter.com*. Contacted by Cichowicz regarding Justin Ley come and give presentation on his web-based database for collecting all the vacant parcels in urban areas as a way to bring people who are interested in locating their businesses together with vacant space.
- *1010 Washington Avenue*. Contacted by Tinjum regarding introduction of Jack Goldenberg, new owner at Sorella Wine & Spirits.
- *Minneapolis Depot Renaissance Hotel*. Contacted by CSM Corporation regarding its The Depot expansion project and request for letter of support.
- *Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman*. Contacted by her office regarding getting on the DMNA's 2015 meeting schedule, i.e., the annual meeting and one other at the board's discretion.
- *East Downtown Council Great Streets Business District Support Grant*. DiDonato spoke with Dan Collison regarding this grant and request for letter of support.

Discussion then ensued about the priorities topics for the upcoming February 16th meeting. DiDonato and Jones will meet with staff to work out the final agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

Being no further business, Jones moved and Sweet seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. DiDonato called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Chair

Secretary