

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2015 Mill City Museum, 6th Floor ADM Room 710 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 member Joan Bennett was also in attendance; however staff member Christie Rock Hantge was absent due to the Boston Marathon.

Guests in attendance included:

Christine Anderson, Carlyle Condominiums
Eric Best, *The Journal*
John Crosby, Stone Arch Lofts
Allison McGuire, Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights
Lisa Goodman, 7th Ward Council Member
L. B. Guthrie, Stonebridge Lofts
Kyle Kingsley, Minnesota Medical Solutions
Randy Manthie, Carlyle Condominiums
Kenya McKnight, NCEC 5th District Commissioner
Nick Murname, Opus Development Company
Thomas Novak, American Trio Lofts
Kendra Parker, Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights
Matt Rauenhorst, Opus Development Company
Ernesto Ruiz-Garcia, Opus AE Group
Bob Stableski, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association
Doug Verdier, RiverWest Condominiums
Brent Webb, Sherman & Associates

II. Consideration of the Agenda

Sweet moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the April 20, 2015 board meeting agenda. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Consent Agenda

Sweet asked that the March 16th minutes be amended to reflect the correct spelling of an audience member, i.e., Christine Anderson of the Carlyle Condominiums instead of Christine

Adams. Thereafter,

Sweet moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda that included the March 16, 2015 board meeting minutes as amended; the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance and Contract Coordinator Work Report for March 2015; and the Outreach and Engagement Coordinator's Report for the period March 1-30, 2015. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Financial Report

Zenner advised that Hantge and Michael S. Wilson, a CPA who performs tax preparation and auditing services for the DMNA, prepared the IRS Federal Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax), and the Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report that he and DiDonato signed off on at the April 6th executive committee meeting. He is seeking board approval of both documents for filing and the required \$25 filing fee payable to the State of Minnesota.

Searl moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the filing of the IRS Federal Form 990, Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report, and payment of the \$25 filing fee. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Guest Presentations / Speakers

- **7th Ward Update.** Council Member Lisa Goodman reported on the following:
 1. She still conducts her monthly Lunch with Lisa meetings. They are well attended and lots of people who no longer live in her Ward (e.g., residents from the Towers, Churchill and Crossings) come to them. This month's LWL is on Wednesday, April 29th at St. Thomas University's Opus Hall 202 and will feature Walker Art Center's Executive Director Olga Viso who will discuss the approximately \$75 million massive renovation of the WAC and reconstruction of the adjacent Sculpture Garden. Renovations of the 19-acre campus include a new entry pavilion, a landscaped 4-acre green space, and some unique traffic calming features. What Goodman likes best about the project is that they're going to get rid of all of the concrete on the Hennepin Avenue side.
(http://www.twincities.com/entertainment/ci_27815054/walker-announces-75-million-renovation-plan)
 2. She also has been conducting an annual Lunch with Lisa Field Trip for the past 4 years that will be held in May 2015. Since it will take place at the City's Emergency Operations Training Facility at 25 37th Avenue NE in Fridley, for security purposes it will require an advance sign-up (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/emergency/>).
 3. To connect better with the community after having demolished the adjacent Marimark Apartments building and turning it into a parking lot causing the displacement of its former tenants, Westminster Presbyterian Church at 1200 Marquette Avenue South is in the process of seeking support to demolish the blue building adjacent to it at 1221 Marquette Avenue South to create a substantial addition to the church for common space, a clock tower, and a courtyard where the surface parking lot now exists. What is unique about this project and similar to the WAC project, they're taking down the 6-foot wall that separates the church building from Peavey Plaza.

4. They are beginning the first year of a 2-year Hennepin/Lyndale Reconstruction Project (<http://www.hennepinlyndaleproject.com/>). Reconstruction will include a full realignment of the street, a bike lane added on the east side of the street, a bigger boulevard, and elimination of the “slip ramps”. The project will begin with utility work this summer and the full reconstruction will begin by the end of this year and go through the summer of 2016.
5. The Nicollet Mall Project (<http://www.nicolletmallproject.com/>) is also about to begin its utility work this summer. The major portion of the reconstruction and redesign will occur summer of 2016 and the street will be closed for much of that time.
6. There will be street closures due to the resurfacing of South 9th, 11th and 12th Streets (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-135136>) and the paving of LaSalle Avenue (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/all/WCMS1P-104039>).
7. The newly completed Hampton Inn & Suites Minneapolis at 19 North 8th Street will have its grand opening on April 23rd and the owners have already sold it to an investor. Although Goodman considers it one of the lesser attractive properties built of late, it is slightly better than a surface parking lot and gives us another affordable option for a hotel in the CBD.
8. Orchestra Hall will soon be putting up a couple dynamic signs funded through the City. The City can't do much now about Peavey Plaza but is working towards figuring out what the plans are for it. The idea was to do something simultaneously with what is happening with Nicollet Mall. Due to the litigation that prevented them from moving forward with the larger plan, the City is somewhat at a stalemate; they're going to be using a consultant that works with SPHO to determine what is allowed and what they can do to move forward.
9. They approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Ivy Hotel's new restaurant, Porter and Frye, which will allow among other things a significant sidewalk café.
10. For the first time she believes the proposed development [i.e., Village Green and Pratt Ordway Properties' proposal for an 18-story apartment tower] for the Handicraft Guild building at 89-91 South 10th Street and the Marquette Building at 1004 Marquette Avenue is actually real. When first elected to the City Council, one of the first things they did was to get them designated for heritage preservation by the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission. The owner sued and the City won. It then went before the district court and was overturned. Finally it went before the Supreme Court (<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/mn-supreme-court/1062969.html>) and the City won. After having sat for a very long period of time, this is the first opportunity for significant development on that block. The Handicraft Guild building will be rehabbed and incorporated into a new building and the Marquette building's façade will be removed brick-by-brick and reused for the bottom 2 floors of the new building. There will be a mixture of studios, 1-bedrooms, 2-bedrooms units and the developers have asked for no parking. Village Green has a history of having no parking in its buildings (e.g., Soo Line Building City Apartments) so the market will decide whether this is what it wants. Goodman believes the market is slowing down and there have been some notable projects

in this area that have fallen through.

11. The comprehensive spring street sweeping is underway and will take about a month to complete (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/>).
12. Organics recycling (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/organics/>) and how to pick up yard wastes, none of which is appropriate for this audience. She voted against this because everyone has to pay but you have to opt-in to get the service and it flies in the face of the City's equity agenda, e.g., people in Kenwood can pay \$48 whether they compost or not but \$48 is a lot for people on the north side and they don't recycle in most cases. Therefore, the least able to afford it will end up paying and not using it so that those who are most able to afford it can have it. She's not sure buying all that equipment was a good idea but it's happening and a lot of her constituents love it and will be heavy users but unfortunately everyone will be forced to pay whether they use it or not.
13. She loves what the medical marijuana dispensary folks are doing; they really seem to have their act in order. It could have been a real disaster with that [former League of Catholic Women at 207 South 9th Street] building sitting vacant and boarded. They are really going to improve it and the very tiny percentage of the population they are serving is relatively fragile and they need parking and easy access to the facility. She is thrilled they decided to put it downtown.

Thereafter, Goodman entertained questions from the board.

- ***Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission.*** Fifth District Commissioner Kenya McKnight who has served on the NCEC for the past 3 years explained what it is, its role and responsibilities, and connection to the neighborhood associations (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/>).

Established in 2008, the NCEC is essentially the new face of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program that is being phased out and is comprised of 16 residents – 8 appointed by neighborhood organizations, 5 by the City Council, 2 by the Mayor, and 1 by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board – who work in partnership with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/ncr_about-us) to increase inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all community members, and serve as an advisory board to the City Council and Mayor. The Policy Board of the NRP (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/nrp/>) is still in place to help govern the remaining resources of the NRP.

From her experience, the NCEC has been about redefining what its scope of work should be and thus far they've come up with the following:

- The One Minneapolis Fund targeting communities of color to build their participation and engagement with the City, neighborhood associations, boards and commissions (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-121027>). NCEC governs this fund, the RFP process, decides which agencies to support, and makes final recommendations to the City Council.

- The newer Community Innovation Fund targeting neighborhood organizations that collaborate with two or more neighborhood organizations or between neighborhood organizations and community-based organizations to foster innovative and locally relevant approaches to City-identified goals. The pot of money allocated for 2015 through 2016 is \$300,000 with a maximum award of \$30,000 for any project (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/CommunityInnovationFund>).

Ancillary responsibilities of the NCEC include:

- The City Department Engagement Task Force charged with evaluating current public engagement practices of City departments and make recommendations on possible improvements to department engagement practices.
- The One Minneapolis Fund Committee charged with making recommendations to the NCEC on guidelines for the One Minneapolis Fund, developing a request for proposals for funding applications, reviewing applications, and making recommendations to the NCEC on projects to receive funding from the program.
- Neighborhood 2020 that is all about helping neighborhoods think about their role and future as the current funding source expires in 2020 (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-139617.pdf>).
- Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, a multi-year strategic action plan to ensure an equitable community engagement system across the City recognizing that the neighborhood association system does not work for all communities (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement>)

McKnight advised that they spend approximately 10 to 15 hours per month on NCEC work that involves reacting to the recommendations from the NCR, e.g.: the CPP is about to be reevaluated for the first time since its inception and the NCEC is being asked to be involved in the process by reaching out to the neighborhoods and convening with the City Council for its feedback.

To many commissioners, however, their role is unclear. Some believe their job is to engage frequently with neighborhoods and some don't. Some believe there are paid neighborhood specialists from the NCR who engage directly and since NCEC are volunteers, to provide staff support around engagement some feel is way over what they signed up to do. In any event, the NCEC is comprised of dedicated volunteer staff and board members from neighborhood associations, and others involved in the community throughout the city.

Many times the NCEC has to debate and make recommendations about important matters that could affect the neighborhood associations, e.g., the evaluation of the CPP, and of particular note, when the NCR and a Council Member attempted to change the CIF criteria so that other nonprofits and community groups could access those funds without being in partnership with neighborhood associations. Although it was not privy to the conversations to have the criteria amended, the NCEC advocated behind the scenes to ensure its CIF recommendations to keep the money available for neighborhood associations were respected. The NCEC is focused on what its engagement work will be for the future and being clear with

the NCR about how they will use that input, what difference it will make and what is it going to impact; that is the clarity NCEC is seeking from NCR.

McKnight advised she learned a lot about the neighborhood system and the internal functions of the City then announced she would not be seeking reelection due to a new job opportunity and encouraged the audience to pursue her seat. Thereafter, she entertained questions from the board.

- ***Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights.*** While Kendra Parker distributed a flyer entitled “5 ways to get involved with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights,” Allison McGuire cited the ways to become involved:
 - Report incidents of discrimination or police misconduct;
 - Participate in internship programs;
 - Serve on a Board or Commission;
 - Become a volunteer mediator; and
 - Get certified as a Small/Woman/Minority-owned business enterprise with the City.

Located on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, the MDCR has three divisions (Contract Compliance, Complaint Investigations, and Employment Equity), and a 12-week Urban Scholars intern program (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civilrights/>). Both she and Kendra are attorneys who work in the Complaint Investigations Division that investigates all complaints of discrimination that fall under the jurisdiction of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Ordinance that have occurred in the City within 365 days of the alleged incident. Also within the CID is the relatively new Police Conduct Oversight Commission that assures police services are delivered in a lawful and nondiscriminatory manner. Because of recent issues of racial bias when it comes to police procedures CID co-workers recommended that MPD officers document the race and ethnicity of people they detain and to include more details about the reasons for stops (reference their report at <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2015/04/15/minneapolis-police-stops-race>).

McGuire has come from an immigration law background and has dealt a lot with the Minneapolis Police Department in her former career. The PCOC can also provide, if through the local conciliation or public hearing process the MDCR finds that discrimination took place, monetary compensation.

The Office of Police Conduct Review, a neutral agency that investigates allegations of police misconduct, will report any findings of discrimination to Police Chief Janeé Harteau.

Thereafter, McGuire entertained questions from the board.

- ***Mile in My Shoes.*** Kittock advised that the DMNA voted a couple months ago to support this program. It is comprised of a group of volunteers that meet at the Higher Ground homeless shelter every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 a.m. and run with homeless men. Footwear and running apparel are provided.

Part of the funding was contingent upon the program expanding to another downtown shelter. She is happy to report that as of a week from tomorrow they will begin running at Emanuel Apartments (818 South 3rd Street in Downtown East) every Tuesdays and

Thursdays at 6 a.m. Of the approximately 100 residents, 11 have signed up and volunteers are welcome.

Just yesterday they had a half-mile mud run at Theodore Wirth Park and everyone finished. The goal is to have everyone run in the 5k Turkey Day Run (<http://www.turkeyday-5k.com/>) by November. There's been so much enthusiasm for the program that co-founders Mishka Vertin and Mike Jurasits are pursuing another downtown homeless shelter location.

- **Open Streets Minneapolis.** As a follow up to the March 16th board meeting at which Alex Tsatoulis from the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition sought DMNA support for the first OSM to be held in downtown, Outreach and Engagement Coordinator Joan Bennett explained the program and the two sponsorship levels (i.e., Neighborhood Sponsor Level at \$2,500 or Local Sponsor Level at \$5,000) for board consideration. The main difference between the two being the amount of brand recognition, i.e., getting the DMNA's logo on T-shirts, billboards, and on the respective websites at the Local Sponsor Level. At either level there will be plenty of street space where partners can be invited to help program. The DMNA planning team is thinking of having a kids' activity zone and as a result they met with Downtown Families Minneapolis, OSM and Webster Elementary to brainstorm and they are all supportive. After responding to questions and a brief discussion,

Tinjum moved and Cichowicz seconded a motion to approve funding of the 2015 OSM in downtown Minneapolis in the amount of \$5,000 to be presumably drawn from its Community Participation Program funds. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Committee Operating Guidelines.** Bennett advised that the board has been working on how to form committees in a way that is inclusive and effective to support the work of the board. This effort evolved from one-on-one conversations to workshops at the Executive Committee level that resulted in the Committee Operating Guidelines she drafted dated 4.9.2015. Comments about the guidelines included:
 - On page 2 under Publicizing Meeting & Open Attendance, it may not always be possible to announce a committee meeting at a board meeting. If there would be a need for a committee meeting prior to a board meeting it wouldn't be possible to announce it at a board meeting.
 - On page 2 under Publicizing Meeting & Open Attendance, notice to send to the Downtown Journal is a separate action item and would assume it should be on the mailing list and thus notified like everyone else.
 - Referencing the EPNI Development Review Policy document Jones forwarded, suggest over time we evaluate how these guidelines are working and how they should be modified to be more effective.
- **Proposed Land Use Advisory Committee.** As a result of the foregoing guidelines and to be more proactive rather than reactive in the City's development review process, Bennett explained that Tinjum recommended a Land Use Advisory Committee be formed to guide the DMNA's development review process (reference her Proposed Committee/Task Force of the DMNA Board draft dated 4.9.15). The way it has been working is a developer presents before the DMNA and then the board is expected to digest, understand, and ask smart questions in a short timeframe. Instead, the LUAC would rather do the work upfront, dig in, ask questions and make recommendations to the board. The LUAC would also be able to

anticipate and assist with development priorities happening within the community as well as to get the perspective of neighbors.

Tinjum moved and Kittock seconded a motion to appoint Cichowicz as chair of the Land Use Advisory Committee. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

Thereafter, audience members Brent Webb and Randy Manthie as well as Tinjum volunteered to serve.

- **Tailgating Task Force.** Tinjum advised that the Vikings have to get a tailgating plan in place and negotiated with the neighborhoods by next year. A couple of neighborhoods have already negotiated a plan that moves tailgating out of their neighborhoods but the DMNA has been late to the game and now needs to engage. If the DMNA were to achieve the same level of success there would be no tailgating.

DiDonato moved and Jones seconded a motion to appoint Tinjum as chair of the Tailgating Task Force. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

Thereafter, audience member Thomas Novak agreed to serve.

- **Livability Committee.** Kittock explained discussion was held about forming this committee to include homelessness, restorative justice, and tactical urbanism since several board members already serve on broader livability and crime and safety related committees, i.e.: 2025 Plan Task Force to End Street Homelessness; Downtown Court Watch; and Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District Tactical Urbanism Task Force.

Tinjum moved and Jones seconded a motion to appoint Kittock as chair of the Livability Committee. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

Searl and Cichowicz will also serve on this committee.

DiDonato noted that committee updates should be a part of future agenda items.

VI. Land Use Update

- **Mixed-use Proposal for Former Ritz Hotel Site.** Nick Murname, manager of Opus Development Company, introduced himself and his colleagues, Matt Rauenhorst, VP of real estate development, and Ernesto Ruiz-Garcia, the project's lead designer and then noted that they recently completed construction on The Nic on 5th, the 26-story luxury apartment building on the corner of Nicollet Mall and South 5th Street (<http://www.TheNiconFifth.com/>), and currently under construction on the Xcel Energy office building at the opposite corner of Nicollet Mall and South 4th Street (<http://www.opus-group.com/OurWork/Xcel-Energy-at-401-Nicollet>).

Using a slide presentation, Murname described how the proposed development for the former Ritz Hotel site would be their next phase of transforming the north end of the Nicollet Mall. The development of this block bounded by Nicollet Mall, Marquette Avenue, and South 3rd and 4th Streets will be in two phases: Phase 1, the subject of this presentation on the southwest quadrant of the block; and Phase 2 on the northeast quadrant of the block.

Phase 1 will consist of a 32-story tower with 365 market rate apartments and 367 parking stalls. Early on in the design process they heard the importance of activating the façade along Nicollet Mall and believe they have done so by bringing the apartments down to the third level, creating a skyway connection to Xcel Energy on the second level with the ability by design to connect to the Central Library, and providing 6,000 square feet of ground floor retail space. They have also taken into consideration design features of the Nicollet Mall Project to incorporate into their streetscape elements.

Ernesto Ruiz-Garcia stated he is excited about this project because he's lived here long enough to know that this block has needed development for a long time. They are taking a surface parking lot and transforming it into a transit-oriented development that will activate the neighborhood.

Then he described the site and floor plans of the project. The tower is slender, elegant and tall with a lot of character and its appearance changes as you move around, beneath and far away. Instead of just sticking balconies on the tower, they designed them in a push and pull pattern to make it more unique and visually interesting. The floor plate was changed to allow for six corner units and for the massing on Nicollet Mall to become more slender. To open the view to the river, it will be stepped back from the property line (9' from the Nicollet Mall) several times where seating could be placed without inhibiting pedestrian flow. The tower will be transparent and pedestrian-friendly as the ground and skyway levels will be composed of large expanses of glass around the entire structure and sidewalks will be widened. Access to the parking ramp will be off of South 4th Street, a two-lane, one-way running east, and will be undetectable from the Nicollet Mall. And although the residential entrance and lobby is on South 4th Street, they are reaching out to the mall for the address (360 Nicollet Mall) and retail use.

Amenities on the 6th level are similar to those at The Nic on 5th with an indoor fitness area and pub, and an outdoor pool, sundeck and cabanas. They also want a residential amenity area on the ground level to help activate and energize the Marquette Avenue side.

Thereafter, the project team entertained questions from the audience.

Cichowicz moved and Jones seconded a motion to approve the design concept of Phase 1 of the proposed Ritz Block mixed-use development project. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Medical Marijuana Dispensary.** Dr. Kyle Kingsley, CEO of Minnesota Medical Solutions (MinnMed), gave a presentation on their flagship medical marijuana dispensary to be located in the former League of Catholic Women space located at 207 South 9th Street.

MinnMed is a patient-centered group of scientists, physicians and healthcare professionals (not stoners) who have built a comprehensive plan for medical marijuana patients in Minnesota, one of two medical marijuana producers licensed in Minnesota. There are three major pillars under which they operate:

1. *Medicine and science.* This is fundamental to what they do. Producing medical marijuana is expensive and time consuming but is the only way to provide this medicine as an oil for vaporization, pills, tinctures and syringes of oil to mix with tea or food.

2. *Investors.* There are 120 small investors from throughout the state. With no venture capital or institutional money they raised \$16.6 million in a few weeks back in February 2015 that will allow them to remain patient-centered and not beholden to venture capitalists.
3. *Industry expertise.* Although a weed that grows in ditches throughout Minnesota, still need to access the horticulture expertise of the industry and have some national experts brought into the fold who run their growing facility in Otsego. They are producing, naturally and organically, at capacity in anticipation of their July 1st launch.

He emphasized that Minnesota's laws are very restrictive and thus the dispensary will not look anything like Colorado and California. It will be for very sick people, many who are dying, and for kids with qualifying medical conditions.

Being a Minneapolis resident, Kingsley approached the construction of the dispensary to be done in his neighborhood. Then he passed around images of how the dispensary will be configured: there will be a secured foyer accessible only by patients and accompanying parents or caregivers, waiting room, a pharmacist on staff, and private consultation rooms with patient navigators well versed in medical marijuana treatment algorithms to arrive at a treatment option. The security director is a former secret service agent/narcotics detective and will be more secure than CVS.

Over half of the medications themselves will have very little mood-altering effects and are composed of cannabidiol (CBD) versus tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). CBD is effective as an anti-inflammatory and for the treatment of seizures. For more information, visit <http://minnesotamedicalsolutions.com/>. After entertaining questions from the audience,

Jones moved and Sweet seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for the opening of a medical marijuana dispensary at 207 South 9th Street by MinnMed. DiDonato called for discussion. The motion passed.

VII. Old / New / Other Business

- *Outreach and Collaboration with Other Downtown Organizations.*
 - *Downtown Public Realm / Service Area Master Plan Steering Committee.* Sweet advised that there have been no new developments since the March 16th meeting at which the joint group was renamed *Pathways to Places: Shaping Downtown Together* and they broke out into small group and conducted a parks envisioning exercise on the type of services and programs one hopes to have in the district. To view key documents related to this process, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/lrp/WCMS1P-134268> or https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/downtown_service_area_master_plan/.
 - *Pathways to Places Focus Group held on April 6th.* Cichowicz reported that he attended this event with representatives from North Loop, Elliot Park and other local nonprofits. It was hosted by Minneapolis CPED and MPRB who are (1) exploring ways to directly connect and engage with the neighborhoods, e.g., via blogs and partnerships; and (2) exploring ways to enhance the downtown public realm to make it more welcoming. Cichowicz surmised that they want to take feedback to the larger group to determine how to engage

going forward and he believes they should conduct more of these. Sweet noted that there is an upcoming focus group on May 1st to be held with the business/worker constituency interests.

VIII. Adjournment

Being no further business, Tinjum moved and Zenner seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. DiDonato called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Chair

Secretary