

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Recap of the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2015
The Depot Renaissance Hotel, Hiawatha Ballroom
225 3rd Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401

I. Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Board Chair Chad DiDonato called the annual meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., welcomed the audience, and reviewed the agenda.

Thereafter, he thanked the current board for its service as he believes some positive things came out of it this past year and expressed that a neighborhood association shouldn't be about distributing funds, but should be about the people who live or own property in the neighborhood. Downtown East and Downtown West is what makes up the DMNA and those two geographies are already represented by two business organizations, therefore he is challenging the new board to revisit whether it should restrict board membership to those who live or own property only.

DiDonato described the type of individual who should be on the board who he put in contact with Kittock. He read Kittock's email she sent to his friend introducing her to Mile in My Shoes to exemplify how the passion of one board member can impact the organization and community and then asked the audience to keep that in mind when voting.

II. Year in Review

A. 2015 Accomplishments

Referencing the two-sided 2014-2015 DMNA Partnerships document distributed to attendees, DiDonato explained that the DMNA has also:

- Provided matching funding, i.e., provided support for the first year and asked the organization to pursue funds for the second year and, if acquired, provide support for a subsequent year;
- Organized, via the DMNA Program & Outreach Coordinator Joan Bennett, five public forums and 8 community events; and
- Formed two new committees with over 15 active members:
 - Land Use Committee, established by Randy Manthey and David Tinjum for the purpose of tracking development activity/land use issues and to make recommendations to the board; and

- Livability Committee established and chaired by Claudia Kittock whose success everyone is now familiar. Many projects were asked to go to this committee first to get a wider scope of the membership and to then make a recommendation to the board.

B. DMNA Funding Sources

DiDonato explained that essentially it comes from everyone in the audience, i.e., taxpayer money, via the following vehicles:

- Initially, the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (<http://nrp.org/>) that was subsequently replaced by the
- Community Participation Program (http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs/cpp/ncr_community-participation).

DiDonato displayed a chart showing how the NRP funds have been expended since 2000 and how there was a spike in 2005 related to multiple projects focused around affordable housing.

After the sunset of the NRP, there was still a good chunk of money remaining so when the board conducted a strategic planning session and the Livability Committee was formed it was decided to put the funds to good use. As a result, there was a spike in funding in 2015 trailing off with the matching funding.

The areas of strategic focus, as established in the NRP program with fund allocations established for each, were housing; arts, education and culture; downtown development; and crime and safety. DiDonato then described what programs were chosen under each strategic area and the amount of funds allocated.

Of about 16 projects approved, 13 went through the Livability Committee, of which 12 were approved. This is indicative of the impact committees can have and how the board can reach out and get a bigger grasp of how the community feels. The 1 out of the 13 that didn't get approved (although last minute, it fits under the crime and safety strategy), is adding cameras on South 3rd Street for People Serving People's bus stop that American Trio Lofts is supporting. This could tie into the DID's Camera Watch system (<http://www.minneapolisdid.com/page/show/608067-did-fusion-center>) and become a part of a MPD substation he's working on for the neighborhood. He hopes the new board takes this matter up and approves its funding.

III. Board Elections

DiDonato asked each candidate to come before the audience in alphabetical order by first name and give a 2-minute speech. They will then be followed by any write-in candidates. The DMNA has a total of 8 seats and there are six seats available: four 2-year terms, and

two 1-year terms because two board members with 1 year remaining recently resigned. The following candidates came forward:

Conrad Zbikowski, Stonebridge Lofts
Dan Collison, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Joe Tamburino, American Trio Lofts
Kevin Frazell, Zenith Condominiums
Laurie Jones, The Whitney
Matt McNeill, RiverWest Condominium
Pamela McCrea, The Bridgewater Lofts
Sara Sternberger, Free Arts Minnesota

The audience then filled out their ballots that were subsequently collected for counting by representatives from KPMG.

IV. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Jacob Frey thanked both the outgoing and incoming DMNA board members who have stepped up the challenge and then reported on the following:

- ***Working Families Agenda.*** Frey advised that we have an issue in our society, i.e., respectful, concise and thoughtful debate is often pushed to the side by hashtags, rhetoric and lack of facts on both sides of the political spectrum and we need to be very conscience of it as it has worked its way through city issues throughout the country. Cities are becoming more powerful because there's gridlock at state and federal governments, and you have very large populations that are deciding they want to live once again in urban, vibrant areas. Thus, cities are the ones to move these complex and contentious issues forward and get hit from all sides and he welcomes it in a respectful manner.

There are three issues moving forward in terms of an opportunity gap, racial inequities, and profiling: wage theft; fair scheduling; and earned sick time (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-148471.pdf>).

Frey is in favor of the language related to wage theft and earned sick time; however his concerns about fair scheduling include having heard from a new industry every day, the most comical being funeral homes, about how it wouldn't work. He believes in laws that are narrowly tailored to target those 2% who are doing wrong. Find out what they're doing wrong, regulate and enact statutes that target them specifically. We are acting as impediments to entrepreneurs, many minority-owned, who are doing the right thing. He's also concerned because enforcement is an issue; regardless of the legitimacy of the underlying statute, the biggest hindrance to how our legal code is enacting laws that cannot ultimately be enforced.

We can't just pass something willy-nilly; we need to have a calm, concerted collaborative effort that includes low-wage employees, representatives of organized labor, both large and small employers and representatives of business groups and associations that are contributing so that we arrive at the best proposal. The WFA ordinance was postponed to get a partnership in place, Workplace Regulations Partnership (<http://www.journalmpls.com/news/city-hall-update/council-creates-workplace-regulations-partnership>) to move forward and arrive at the best proposal. Anger should not hinder good constructive debate.

- ***Downtown Developments.*** While Peter Zenner ran his animated PowerPoint presentation, Frey gave an overview of some major downtown developments:
 1. Mill Quarter (<http://www.millcityquarter.com/>) and Abiitan (<http://www.abiitan.org/>) projects on South 2nd Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues South;
 2. Thresher Square/East End (<http://www.sherman-associates.com/eastend/>) development at Washington and Chicago Avenues that will include a Trader Joe's;
 3. Centric Hotel mixed-use project at 800 Washington Avenue South;
 4. Edition Apartments at 511 South 4th Street (<http://editionapts.com/>) that will frame the new park to the west;
 5. The surface parking lot and former Star Tribune building that was demolished to become a 4.2 acre park bordered by South 4th and 5th Streets and Chicago Avenue (<http://www.downtowneastcommonsmpls.com/>);
 6. Hennepin County Medical Center's expansion (<http://hcmcnews.org/>);
 7. Nicollet Hotel block mixed-use project (<http://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2015/02/06/city-recommends-united-properties-for-nicollet.html>);
 8. Ritz Hotel block project (<http://www.journalmpls.com/news-feed/opus-releases-plan-for-32-story-ritz-block-tower>);
 9. AC Hotel by Marriot project (http://adimages.startribune.com/mcu/startribune-interstitial_v3.html?sz=/7932/website/web_test/interstitial_core&w=970&h=650&dsmid=827201512&aa=33&cl=1&ref=http%3A//www.startribune.com/mortenson-proposal-brings-new-marriott-hotel-brand-to-minneapolis/281858501/) currently under construction;
 10. Although no contract has been signed, Frey is looking forward to the relighting of the Grain Belt Beer sign in the near future (<http://grainbelt.com/news-press-room/>);
 11. Need to re-imagine the U.S. Post Office facility on South 1st Street between Hennepin and 3d Avenues South (http://www.placeography.org/index.php/Minneapolis_Post_Office_%28Main_Post_Office%29,_100_S._1st_Street,_Minneapolis,_Minnesota);
 12. As in the case with the Stone Arch Bridge, to continue to highlight the river, need to light the 3rd Avenue Bridge (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Avenue_Bridge_%28Minneapolis%29);
 13. To turn Washington Avenue the Avenue des Champs-Élysées of Minneapolis, plans are in the works to make it more pedestrian/bike friendly and green

<http://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/washington-ave-mpls>).

Thereafter, Frey entertained questions from the audience.

V. Community Partner Showcase

A. *MacPhail Giving Voice Chorus/New Downtown Choir*. Kjersti Francis, Corporate and Community Engagement Officer, gave an overview of their mission, history, and funding structure. The funding received from the community, corporations, and individuals is critical to their goal to eliminating economic barriers for the less advantaged students. The DMNA along with the City support their new Giving Voice Choir partnership. The DMNA, in conjunction with Emanuel Housing and the City, is also supporting a 6-week pilot choir program for the Mill District. The turnout for the first rehearsal was overflowing due in no small way to her colleague J.D. Steel agreed to direct and was accompanied by his brother Fred on piano. Francis advised that music is the great communicator, universal language, and is magical. Music education makes you smarter in everything, science, math, executive function, literacy, and is a great healer as is demonstrated by Alzheimer participants in their choirs. They are also a thought leader and cultural pacesetter in music education.

J.D. Steel (<http://www.thesteelmusic.com/biographies/jd-steele>) advised he is excited to work with the DMNA and thanked the board for its support. Thereafter, a brief film was shown of the GVC.

For more information, visit <http://www.macphail.org/>.

B. *Mile in My Shoes*. Using a slide presentation, Mishka Vertin, co-founder of MiMS (<http://mileinmyshoes.mn/>), advised she and her partner Mike began it about a year and a half ago at Catholic Charities' Higher Ground shelter to introduce the amazing physical and mental health benefits of running to those who may need it most, and to bring people from diverse backgrounds together to form relationships, build community, and break down stereotypes. Since its formation, they have grown to two site partners the other being at Emanuel Housing, a 7 member board of directors, 26 residential members, and 63 active volunteers. Twenty-two of the residential members completed at least one 1K race this year, six have completed a 10K, four completed a 10 miler, two (one of which is Debbie Parker who will speak later) have completed both the City of Lakes half marathon and the Twin Cities marathon.

Vertin then explained how MiMS changes the lives of its team members and community. Thereafter, Debbie Parker gave testimony as to how the program has changed her life, i.e., ran two 5K's, loss a total of 20 pounds, blood pressure has decreased, has come off of blood pressure medications, and hopes to be off her high cholesterol medication in the near future.

C. *St. Stephen's Human Services*. Gail Dorfman, Executive Director, explained that up until last year she was a Hennepin County Commissioner representing parts of downtown who had worked for many of her years on ending homelessness issues. During that time, she discovered that there is no place across the country like this community where government, business, neighborhoods, and the nonprofit communities have come together to work in a true partnership to end homelessness for so many of its residents. She explained SSHS's mission, services, funding sources, and then thanked the DMNA for its support.

Rolf Lowenberg-Deboer then described SSHS's zAmya Theater Project, its first performance at the Guthrie Theater, and the \$5,000 support from the DMNA that made it possible. For more information, visit <http://ststephensmpls.org/>.

Dorfman added that they didn't like it at first when the DMNA provided money but required them to match the funds. As a result, they approached Oracle and they sponsored street outreach for its annual fundraising event that enabled SSHS to raise the match funds that in turn enabled them leverage additional dollars to support street outreach.

D. *YouthLink*. Dr. Heather Huseby, Executive Director, thanked the other community partners who YL has interacted with in some form or another at some time and the DMNA for its anticipated support for a case worker and a youth outreach worker. Then she gave an overview of YL's mission, history and services, and its proposed plan for a Youth Opportunity Center.

YL connects young people experiencing homeless with a community of resources and support. Whether it's basic needs, like a hot shower or a warm meal, assistance with employment or educational goals, accessing mental and physical health resources, or finding supportive housing, YL helps young people at all stages of their journey. For more information, visit <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/>.

E. *Emanuel Housing*. Laura Craig, Support Services Director at RS Eden, gave an overview of EH's mission, history (they've been here just over 2 years), and services (http://www.rseden.org/index.asp?SEC=43800421-669D-4A64-A7BD-FA8CC4A3B1B8&Type=B_BASIC), and thanked the DMNA for its support.

VI. NRP Plan Modification

DiDonato asked the audience for a ye or nay for the motion to approve the NRP Phase II Plan Modification to move \$226,843.10o from the Housing Opportunities Fund strategy (4.1.3.1) to End Homelessness strategy (4.1.4.1) in order to fund YouthLink's Welcome Center and supportive housing staff and the fourth year of funding for the St. Stephen's Human Services Street Outreach Worker. The motion passed.

VII. Election Results

The following individuals were elected to a 2-year term: Kevin Frazell, Matt McNeill, Pamela McCrea, and Joe Tamburino.

And the following were elected to a 1-year term: Dan Collison and Laurie Jones.

DiDonato congratulated the incoming board members and then The Depot for hosting.

VIII. Adjournment

Being no further business, DiDonato adjourned the annual meeting at 7:50 p.m., and invited the audience to reconvene at the Stone Arch Bar within the hotel and to enjoy the entertainment of Hudson Master Magician (<http://www.hudsonmagic.com/contact-us.html>).