

## **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017  
*Open Book Target Performance Hall*  
1011 Washington Avenue South, 2nd Floor  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

### **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Joe Tamburino called the Board meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jennifer Bernhardt  
Kevin Frazell  
Stephanie Hill  
Pamela McCrea, Vice Chair  
Travis Nordgaard  
Tomek Rajtar  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary

DMNA Treasurer Dianne Walsh was absent.

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Dave Aeikens, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)  
Tom Barta, The Carlyle Condominiums  
Nick Cichowicz, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission  
Rick Crispino, Bridgewater Lofts  
Beth Elliott, City of Minneapolis CPED  
Brenda Langton, Mill City Farmers Market  
Randy Manthey, The Carlyle Condominiums  
Eric Nathanson, author of *Downtown Minneapolis*  
Tom Novak, American Trio Lofts  
Cordelia Pierson, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association  
Marge Richardson, Metropolitan Lofts  
Thomas Schmidt, Washburn Lofts  
Sok Silaphet, City of Minneapolis CPED  
Robert Thompson, Neighborhood & Community Relations Department  
Alex Tsatsoulis, Open Streets  
Marcell Walker, MnDOT  
Dale White, RiverWest Condominiums

### **II. Consideration of the Agenda**

*After striking the update of the Skyway Commons Pocket Park under Financial Update, Tamburino moved and McCrea seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **III. Consideration of the Consent Agenda**

*Frazell moved and Hill seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Board meeting minutes dated January 17, 2017; the Neighborhood Coordinator/Finance Coordinator staff*

report (Invoice #025) for January; and the F2017 Budget vs. Actual for period ending January 31, 2017. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

#### IV. City's Comprehensive Plan: Minneapolis 2040

Beth Elliott, Principal City Planner for Downtown at Minneapolis CPED, introduced herself and her colleague, Thavisack "Sok" Silaphet, Senior Planner, and then distributed a printed copy of her presentation. She began by asking how many have heard of Minneapolis 2040 (<https://minneapolis2040.com/>) and how many have read the existing comprehensive plan, i.e., The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/images/wcms1p-092532.pdf>). As expected, few hands were raised. She explained the City's comprehensive plan provides long-range policy guidance for the built environment and can offer a lot of direction for elements related to the built environment. It is a 20-year vision document and is legally required by state statute and the Metropolitan Council to be updated every 10 years based on data derived from the U.S. Census. The City Council will adopt this updated comprehensive plan in 2018.

The comprehensive plan is the bread and butter of planning and zoning; policies for land use must be established in order to have zoning and zoning is an implementation tool of the comprehensive plan. Elements of the plan required by the Metropolitan Land Planning Act include: land use; transportation; housing; parks and trails; water resources; implementation; natural resource protection; historic resource protection; and public facilities plan. Issues of regional importance identified by the Metropolitan Council are: economic competitiveness; resilience; and equity.

Elliott then reviewed comprehensive plans from 1953, 1962, 1982, 2000 and 2009 to illustrate how they influenced land use, highway, housing, and parks and trails patterns.

She explained the mission statement for Minneapolis 2040, the comprehensive plan values, and policy topics.

Next Elliott reviewed the civic engagement plan, the next phase of which will kick off on Saturday, April 1st at the Community Connections Conference. Engagement will be repeated in the summer and the beginning of 2018. She also discussed the engagement goals, and methods which included large convening events (no street festivals, however, were held in downtown), in-person interaction, technology-based tools, and creative tools. From all of the engagement conducted last year, particularly in Phase 2, they used NVivo, a qualitative data analysis software program, to input all feedback received *verbatim*, which helped create 20 topical headings/themes, not all of which will be present in the recommendations for the comprehensive plan. There are internal research teams/technical advisory committees on the big topics that were given all of the feedback received and are responsible for explaining to the community how policies are being written; they want to be transparent and held accountable for their actions.

Thereafter, Elliott entertained questions from the Board during which Hill wondered why there was focus on small gatherings given the fact you would get a lot of feedback from residents at the Pride Festival in Loring Park. Elliott explained they looked into it but it's expensive to have a table at the event and requires an all day presence; the City just didn't have enough staff. And the reason they are conducting a lot of small group gatherings is because they want to have make the environment comfortable to conduct conversations and to build relationships.

Referencing a later topic on the instant agenda, i.e., "abolish recognition of neighborhood organizations," under Consideration of Neighborhood Resolution, Frazell asked for background on how it came about. Elliott explained they engaged with 1,100 people in Phase 2 and took all the feedback received which turned into the 20 topics/themes, some of which were about governance,

both positive and negative, none of which they questioned. In a transparent process, it is not their job to flesh out anything unrelated, just to show it and thus they summarized the feedback received. The comprehensive plan is not going to provide policy guidance on the future of neighborhoods.

Elliott explained what the emerging trends are for Minneapolis 2040. Ten years ago the Twin Cities talked about transit-orient development and having a multimodal system, now most of the suburbs are talking about having LRT and Bus Rapid Transit. Also, she's also noticed the following themes emerging: climate resiliency, public health incorporated into everything, people, and equity imbedded into everything we do.

Then Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager at NCEC, introduced himself and briefly discussed future engagement opportunities. He noted registration for the Community Connections conference on April 1st at the Minneapolis Convention Center went out today, and that the Community Conversations (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/WCMSP-192856>) are coming up in April and May which will focus on the future of Minneapolis neighborhood organizations after 2020. The DMNA is partnering with other downtown neighborhood organizations to host a community conversation at the end of April.

## **V. MnDOT I-94 Improvement Project**

Dave Aeikens from MnDOT Metro District Office of Communications and Public Affairs introduced himself and his colleague, Marcell Walker, Assistant Transportation Ombudsman, who presented the I-94 Improvement Project ([www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/i94brooklyncntr](http://www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/i94brooklyncntr)). Beginning March 2017, they will be resurfacing 9 miles of I-94 from Nicollet Avenue on the south to Shingle Creek Parkway on the north, concluding in July 2018. The \$46.3 million maintenance and preservation project includes work on 50 bridges, including the Lowry Tunnel. Motorists will see lane restrictions for much of the spring, summer and fall. Traffic restrictions and ramp and road closures will regularly change throughout the project. Motorists should plan ahead, prepare for delays and pay attention to work zones.

Thereafter, he entertained questions from the audience.

## **VI. Introduction of *Downtown Minneapolis* by Eric Nathanson**

Author Eric Nathanson introduced himself and advised he has been writing and lecturing about local history for the past 20 years. *Downtown Minneapolis*, released in January 2017, is his third book on Minneapolis, his first, *Minneapolis in the 20th Century*, came out in 2009, and his second, *The Minneapolis Riverfront*, came out in 2014.

DM (<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467124379>) is a pictorial history of downtown starting from the 1850s up to 2016 and the development of East Downtown.

Nathanson advised for the past 15 years he's been with the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, and prior to that, 20 years at what is now known as Minneapolis CPED. He has also worked with Rock Hantge when he served on the Longfellow Community Council.

He announced an article has been written about DM in *The Journal* at <http://www.journalmpls.com/focus/2017/02/downtown-through-the-decades/>, and that he'll be giving a presentation about it at the Hennepin County Central Library [on April 15th, 2-3 p.m.].

Then he commented that there are new concerns and clouds hanging over downtown that have been in the news recently, i.e., the closing of Macy's and Barnes & Noble resulting in concern and angst about the future of retail in downtown, and the perception of crime. There is one issue,

however, he has a hard time taking seriously, i.e., bashing skyways. There's been a new effort to take them down, but he's a great fan of theirs, as well as of downtown, which is why he wrote his book. For 60 years there has been a development of private/public partnerships that have provided a strong economic base for downtown Minneapolis, without which it would not be in the strong position it is in today. The foundation downtown has will stand in good stead and he is bullish about its future.

Key developments Nathanson believes helped create the foundation for downtown include:

- The skyways, thanks to Leslie Park (<http://www.mnopedia.org/structure/minneapolis-skyways>) who responded to the first climate controlled shopping center built in Southdale that threatened downtown;
- The Nicollet Mall spearheaded by the Downtown Council to promote downtown interest;
- The unsung hero Reiko Weston (<http://www.startribune.com/fifty-years-of-fuji-ya/38004934/>) who took a chance and built the widely successful Fuji Ya restaurant on the riverfront, thereby launching the downtown riverfront revival; and
- The downtown historic theaters which were rediscovered in the 1990s, a resource the suburbs did not have (<https://wedompls.org/features/hennepin-theatre-trust/>).

More recent iconic developments in East Town include:

- U.S. Bank Stadium;
- Commons Park; and
- The four-block skyway connection through the Wells Fargo towers that have floor to ceiling historic maps of downtown Minneapolis.

Lastly, Nathanson advised how the audience could obtain his book. He can be reached at [iricnathanson@comcast.net](mailto:iricnathanson@comcast.net).

## VII. Financial Update

**A. Consideration of Funding Request to the Mill City Farmers Market.** Brenda Langton, founder of the Mill City Farmers Market (<http://millcityfarmersmarket.org/>), introduced herself and distributed a 2-sided, color document that listed their 2017 goals, and educational programming review. The 2017 goals include: inspiring our community to learn the value of healthy, local and organic food; providing healthy, local food access to all; and supporting a sustainable local food economy.

The educational programming review included: Meet Your Vegetables; Power of Produce (POP); Greens 4 Good; and Farmer Grant Program. They have 5,000 to 6,000 who come to the market daily and they need support because of the tremendous amount of work involved to run the market and manage the programs.

Langton is seeking another \$10,000 contribution from the DMNA in 2017. Tamburino asked Rock Hantge how the DMNA would fund this request; she would split the amount between the 2017 Community Participation Program and the NRP Phase II Program.

Thereafter, Langston entertained questions from the Board.

*McCrea moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the 2017 Mill City Farmers Market. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**B. Consideration of Funding Request to 2017 Open Streets Minneapolis.** Alex Tsatsoulis introduced himself and distributed a 2017 Business Packet on the 2017 Open Streets Minneapolis (<http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/>), a family-friendly initiative that transforms major city corridors into safe, car-free places where people can enjoy the street on bicycle, foot, wheelchair, skateboard or roller skate. It is the perfect chance to promote healthy living, local businesses, sustainable transportation and civic pride in Minneapolis. This community event is in its 7th year, and in its 2nd year in downtown.

OSM takes place in all quadrants of the city and is an initiative of the [Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition](#), the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross), and co-sponsored by the City of Minneapolis. Tsatsoulis noted that a final date has not been identified, but that it will likely be on June 11 or June 17.

Tsatsoulis then took questions from the Board during which McCrea asked about the amount of the financial commitment OSM is seeking from the DMNA; he stated \$5,000. Tamburino asked Rock Hantge about the DMNA's contribution to the event from previous years; she noted the DMNA supported the event in 2015 at the \$5,000 level, but the contribution in 2016 was substantially less, more in the \$1,500 range. Nordgaard and Frazell indicated the DMNA had a booth in 2016 and did a few activities for kids and that there was good turnout, but difficult to quantify the number of new connections made for the DMNA. McCrea noted the location of the event being on the edge of the DMNA's boundaries. Tamburino asked whether the North Loop is making a financial contribution to the event; Tsatsoulis was not sure at this point. Tamburino asked Rock Hantge to reach out to the North Loop Neighborhood Association to see if it plans to participate in the 2017 event.

*Tamburino moved and Sweet seconded a motion to table further discussion regarding the 2017 sponsorship request until Rock Hantge checks with the North Loop Neighborhood Association regarding its support for the event. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**C. 2016 Financial Review.** Rock Hantge explained because the DMNA's primary spending money comes from the City, on occasion a financial review is required by the City but not an audit because not enough money is received to do so. However, this year a financial review is required and it will be conducted by NCR contract accountant Mike Wilson (see his Engagement Letter at <http://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DMNA-Engagement-letter-2017-from-NCR-Accountant-Mike-Wilson.pdf>). Rock Hantge does not foresee any problems and expects he'll give a report at the March Board meeting. While this is being done, they will also prepare the 2016 tax documents for filing, i.e., the IRS Form 990 due May 15th, Charitable Organization Annual Report due in July 2017.

McCrea then noted that for some time now she has been asking for a report from the recipients on how the funds were used. Thereafter,

*Hill moved and Sweet seconded a motion to direct Rock Hantge to work with McCrea to obtain from each organization in receipt of funds from the DMNA within the past 18 months a report on how those funds were spent. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **VIII. Land Use Committee Report**

Randy Manthey reported on the following items from the February 7th meeting:

- Park and Portland Vision for Development by East Town Business Partnership and Boarman Kroos Vogel (BKV) Group. This is an initiative to increase residential

development, strengthen Park and Portland corridors as connectors, expand and improve the public realm, and create a website with resource data for developers and other interested stakeholders (<http://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/2017-01-17-Park-and-Portland-Presentation-small.pdf>).

- Downtown Service Area Master Plan by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. To submit comments, visit <https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/news/2017/01/18/2343/draft-downtown-service-area-master-plan-available-for-public-review-and-comment>.
- Century Plaza RFP (<http://www.hennepin.us/centuryplaza>). By approaching a different business model, the County is moving out and developing smaller offices closer to their clients.
- Ironclad mixed-use development (<http://ironcladmn.com/#welcome>). This was approved by the Planning Commission last week and is moving forward. The developer doesn't have a specific construction schedule and will have to perform some environmental remediation.
- The Depot Shed Event Center (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-192182.pdf>) last month a Certificate of Appropriateness was approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission.
- 205 Park Avenue. Based on comments received from their first visit to the LUC, Sherman Associates returned with an updated plan. Detailed discussion ensued during which Manthey explained the next steps of the planning schedule: a site plan will be submitted in March, and a letter of support will be requested of the DMNA in April. Then in May SA will go before the Planning Commission and, if approved, they will proceed soon thereafter to break ground.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 7th and due to precinct caucuses on April 4th, April's meeting will be on Wednesday the 5th.

## IX. Old, New or Other Business

- A. Consideration of Neighborhood Resolution in Response to Minneapolis 2040 Phase 2 Engagement Report.** Tamburino and Rock Hantge provided background on this item. It essentially emerged as the result of the "abolish the recognition of neighborhood organizations," bullet point in the Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan Phase 2 Engagement Report. Although the statement was expressed by one person, City staff chose to include it under the Governance theme. Neighborhoods across the city are very concerned that staff felt this comment was important enough to include it in the summary under a theme, as opposed to simply leaving it in the raw data with the other 1,100 comments collected. The downtown neighborhood organizations banded together to draft a resolution that seeks to have the City follow its own engagement policies that are well documented on the City Website, as well as to have the bullet point removed from under the Governance theme of the Phase 2 engagement report, but left it in the raw data. To date, 17 neighborhoods across the city have signed on to the resolution.

Nick Cichowicz, NCEC Commissioner for District 5, advised they want to hear more about this from Beth Elliott at the full Commission meeting tomorrow evening and that there is nothing in terms of planning that would lend itself to "abolish the recognition of neighborhood organizations." NCEC is committed to neighborhood work, including individuals involved in neighborhoods, and community engagement. They are an advisory body to the City Council with the primary charge of making the city more inclusive and increasing engagement. After further discussion,

*McCrea moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the Neighborhood Resolution. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*



**B. Police Substation at 205 Park Avenue.** Tamburino read his email sent to the Board dated February 16th which listed the terms for a 483 square foot police substation to be located on the north end of 205 Park Avenue facing South 2nd Street. This facility would be under a \$1.00 year lease with no association fee charges but utilities are not included. The Minneapolis Police Department's First Precinct is onboard and next steps involve working with other district groups on fundraising this coming summer. Caplan & Tamburino will make a significant contribution toward the furniture and furnishings. Sherman Associates wants to start construction by October 2017 and hope to complete the development by spring 2019.

**C. Consideration of Renewal of 2020 Partners Membership.** Sweet explained 2020 Partners (<https://the2020partners.com/>) is a public/private organization functioning as a partnership to facilitate the continuing development of the west side of downtown including the area around Target Field, Target Station and the Minneapolis Farmers Market. 2020 Partners addresses similar issues the DMNA addresses, i.e., land use, transportation, crime and safety. The DMNA has had a membership since the organization was known as 2010 Partners, or approximately 8 years, and Sweet believes it is still important to be associated with this high profile organization as it is another venue where the DMNA's voice can be heard. Sweet also noted that former DMNA Board Member Dan Collison is now serving as its Executive Director. The membership amount the DMNA has paid is \$1,000 annually, matching what the North Loop Neighborhood Association and Warehouse District Business Association has been contributing. Rock Hantge indicated that she prepared a check for the DMNA's 2016 and 2017 dues.

*Bernhardt moved and Frazell seconded a motion to approve the membership dues for 2016 and 2017 with 2020 Partners. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**D. Crime and Safety Public Forum.** Tamburino updated the Board on the planning for the Monday, March 20th event. It will be held at New Century Theatre beginning at 5:30 p.m. The following speakers have been invited:

- Renee Allen, Minneapolis Police Department, First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist;
- Lieutenant Christopher House, Minneapolis Police Department, First Precinct;
- Heidi Johnston, City of Minneapolis, City Attorney's Office, First Precinct Community Attorney;
- Shane Zahn, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District / Safe Zone;
- Steve Cramer, Executive Director of the Minneapolis Downtown Council; and
- Jose Acuna from Youth Link.

Tamburino will serve as the forum moderator and he is working on the agenda as well as a PowerPoint presentation he'll share with the guest speakers prior to the event. Rock Hantge has done outreach to the other downtown neighborhood organizations, as well as shared information on the Website and Facebook page. She has also shared the event with the Court Watch email list, the Minneapolis Downtown Council/Downtown Improvement District, 2020 Partners, and the East Town Business Partnership. There will be an ad in *The Journal* the week prior to the event. There has been a lot of good feedback about the event from the public thus far.

## **X. Update from the Exploratory Committee to Hire FTE Executive Director**

Bernhardt advised she, McCrea, Frazell and Nordgaard met a couple weeks ago and decided on the following:

- Frazell and McCrea will dig deep into the current role (e.g., job description, billed hours, level of outreach that currently happens, the City’s needs, level of support Land Use Committee needs) to develop a new job description highlighting any additions needed and defining what success looks like; and
- Bernhardt and Nordgaard, drawing from previous work done by Dan Collison and Rock Hantge, will examine five neighborhood associations (Elliot Park, Uptown, North Loop, Northeast, and Loring Park) to understand the costs associated with an FTE or PTE Executive Director.

The committee will provide another update at the April Board meeting.

**XI. Downtown Partnerships Update**

For a complete listing of the organizations and committees in which the DMNA is engaged, please reference the Outreach and Collaboration Chart prepared by Sweet included in the February 2017 Board materials on the DMNA’s Website under Board Members Only.

Sweet advised her term is expiring on the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership at its annual meeting on April 25th, and based on the “Resolution Establishing Process for Appointing the Central Riverfront Neighborhood Association Director and Alternate to the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership’s Board of Directors” the Central Riverfront neighborhood organizations passed in early 2015, to ensure equitable representation from both sides of the riverfront, a candidate for Director should now be submitted from the east bank, and a candidate for Alternate should now be submitted from the west bank. Thereafter,

*Bernhardt moved and Tamburino second a motion to appoint Sweet as the Alternate to the MRP Board. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**XII. Adjournment**

There being no further business,

*Hill moved and Bernhardt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamburino called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.*

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary