

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, May 21, 2018

YouthLink

41 North 12th Street, Lower Level Conference Room, WiFi ylinternet4u

North Loop Neighborhood of Minneapolis

I. Call to Order and Introductions

After a tour of the Downtown View (<http://www.journalmpls.com/news/2018/04/homeless-youth-get-a-downtown-view/>) with Sai Kilp, Downtown View Transition Coach, and YouthLink update by Dr. Heather Huseby, Executive Director, Chair Joe Tamburino called the Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jennifer Bernhardt
Kevin Frazell
Stephanie Hill
Pamela McCrea, Vice Chair
Tomek Rajtar
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was absent.

Guests in attendance included:

Sarah Peters, Northern Spark Festival
Laura Ross, Downtown resident
Joey Senkyr, The Crossings

II. Consideration of Agenda

After Tamburino explained the latest agenda,

McCrea moved and Frazell seconded a motion to approve the Board meeting agenda as amended replacing the YouthLink update with consideration of appointment to the vacant Board seat followed by consideration of consent agenda. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Consideration of Appointment to Vacant DMNA Board Seat

Due to the resignation of Board member Travis Nordgaard last month, Staff member Christie Rock Hantge posted on the DMNA's Website and Facebook page a message seeking candidates to fill the remaining term of the vacant seat that is expiring in October 2018, to which Land Use Committee member Joey Senkyr replied (reference Rock Hantge's email from Senkyr dated May 15, 2018).

Senkyr advised after receiving his electrical engineering degree from the University of Minnesota,

he's been living downtown in various apartments for the past 4 years and recently moved into The Crossings this past January. He is a Substation Design Engineer at Xcel Energy out of its downtown HQ on Nicollet Mall. His interest in joining the Board stems from his recent participation on the LUC and he would like to continue trying to make a positive impact on the community.

Hill moved and Sweet seconded a motion to appoint Joey Senkyr to fill the remaining term of the vacant seat on the Board that is expiring in October 2018. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Consideration of Consent Agenda

After Treasurer Dianne Walsh advised she reviewed the financial documents and found no issues,

Frazell moved and Bernhardt seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Board meeting minutes dated April 16, 2018; the F2018 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending April 30, 2018; the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for April 2018 (Invoice #040); 2017 Community Participation Program Annual Report; and letter of support for the Salvation Army's \$195,000 application to the City's Emergency Solutions Grant program (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-209907.pdf>), all of which was made available online for advance review. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

After discussion ensued later in the instant meeting about the need to require all organizations requesting a letter of support to first make a presentation before the Board, and despite Salvation Army's request in the past for it to be provided on an annual basis,

Hill moved and McCrea seconded a motion to reconsider the motion to approve the consent agenda and remove the letter of support for the Salvation Army's application. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Land Use Committee Report

Frazell reported on the following projects presented at the May 1st LUC meeting and, stemming therefrom, the recommended letters of support:

- A. Gray Fox Coffee and Wine Bar.** On Sale Wine with Strong Beer, Class E liquor license application (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/licensing/WCMSP-210804>) presentation by Chris Bjorling, co-owner of the Copper Hen and Copper Cow. It will be located in the newly redesigned skyway-accessible atrium of the former TCF Bank Building at 801 Marquette Avenue and managed by Ryan Companies.

The LUC recommended sending a letter of support (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Letter-of-Support-Gray-Fox-Coffee-and-Wine-Bar-05-04-2018.pdf>).

- B. Water Works.** Project update and request to consider allocating all future Park Dedication Fees (https://web.archive.org/web/20170128125742/https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_dedication/) from Downtown West not allocated to The Commons (~\$1.1 million) by Katherine Lamers, Project Design Manager at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Bruce Chamberlain, Parks Fellow, Minneapolis Parks Foundation. The only competition for these PDFs would be Gateway Park (https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks_destinations/parks_lakes/gateway_park/); however, no site improvements are scheduled for the near term.

After requesting and receiving additional information about the timing for Gateway Park, the LUC recommended sending a letter of support (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Letter-of-Support-MPRB-Park-Dedication-Fees-and-Water-Works-Park.pdf>).

- C. Thrivent Financial New Corporate Campus.** Presentation of the final design, public realm improvements, and associated land use applications was given by Bill Blanski, Design Principal at HGA, and Sandra Rolph, Associate Principal at Oslund and Associates (<http://www.tdtmpls.com/news/2018/3/7/thrivant-financial-debuts-plans-for-new-downtown-headquarters>).

The LUC recommended sending a letter of support (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Board-letter-of-support-2-Thrivent-Corporate-Headquarters-Project-Land-Use-applications-REVISED.pdf>) which was subsequently approved by the Board via email in time to include in TF's package before the Planning Commission's meeting on May 21st.

- D. 12th Street Tower.** Presentation of the final site plan was given by Chris Osmundson, Development Director at Alatus, and Gretchen Camp, VP at ESG (<http://alatusllc.com/228-s-12th-st/>). The project team asked the LUC to reiterate its support for the arrival court. However, according to Camp who Frazell saw that day, some of the City staff has been reluctant about supporting it due to concerns about potential conflict with pedestrians.

The LUC recommended sending a letter of support (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Letter-of-Support-2-Alatus-228-S.-12th-Street.pdf>) which was subsequently approved by the Board via email in time to include in Alatus's package before the Planning Commission's meeting on May 21st.

- E. New City Consolidated Office Building.** Presentation of the final design (<http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/2018/04/city-reveals-new-details-of-consolidated-office-project/>) and request for letter of support and variance to reduce the loading dock was given by Peter Brown of Peter Hendee Brown and consultant to City, and Matt Krontorad, Principal at MSR Design.

The LUC recommended sending a letter of support for the final design but did not address the variance for the loading dock (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Letter-of-Support-new-City-office-building.pdf>) which was

subsequently approved by the Board via email in time to include in the City's package before the Planning Commission's meeting on May 21st.

- F. 517 South 7th Street.** A conceptual design presentation and request for a letter of support of a proposed 12-story apartment building to the west and a 10-story, suite-based, extended stay hotel to the east connected by a 2-level building with a daycare and outdoor play area and a fitness center (<https://finance-commerce.com/2018/03/new-thrivent-hq-to-connect-downtown-hcmc/>) on the southern half of Thrivent Financial's East Block was given by Shane LaFave, Director of Multifamily Development at Sherman Associates, and Bob Loken, Partner at ESG Architecture and Design. It will share the two levels of underground parking, courtyard, and skyway connections with Thrivent's development. There is a plan for curb build-outs and pedestrian enhancements on 7th Street, 5th and Portland Avenues and they are working on the City to understand its vision as well as with Metro Transit to understand the scope of both local and BRT bus stops.

This project has received a letter of support for the conceptual design from EPNI's BLUH and they will go before both the EPNI and DMNAs Boards throughout this process. Because there is shared parking, they have to accelerate their schedule to coincide with the Thrivent project and the goal is to begin construction in fall 2018.

The LUC recommended sending a letter of support of the conceptual design (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/DMNA-Board-letter-of-support-Sherman-Associates-517-S.-6th-Street.pdf>).

G. Other Projects Presented at May 1st LUC Meeting

- 1. The Gateway.** Received an update on this 33-story, mixed-use luxury condominium tower (<https://www.uproperties.com/properties/gateway/>) by William Katter, President & Chief Investment Officer at United Properties. RBC Wealth Management-U.S. will anchor on three levels (<http://tcbmag.com/news/articles/2018/april/rbc-to-anchor-33-story-downtown-minneapolis-tower>) with four levels of speculative space above, a 240-room Four Seasons hotel above that, 18 spacious luxury condominiums with private balconies and terraces on four levels above that, two street level restaurants, three below-grade parking levels, and various amenities to support the hotel function. The ground level plaza will be configured on the northeast to accommodate future streetcar transit through the property. Hourly and daily public parking will be accessed off of South 3rd Street. The skyway level will be configured to connect to the Minneapolis Central Library and they are completing negotiations with Opus Development to connect with its 365 Nicollet development (<https://www.opus-group.com/Work/365-Nicollet-Luxury-Multifamily>).

Since this was an informational session, no action was required by the LUC. This project will return with a final design in June/July and then enter the City's land entitlement process. If all goes well they intend to break ground by March 2019.

- 2. Draft Minneapolis 2040 Comp Plan.** Heather Worthington, the City's Director of Long Range Planning, gave a high-level overview of the plan and how to provide input by July

22nd (<https://minneapolis2040.com/how-to-comment/>). The plan is organized around land use, climate action, racial equity, affordable housing, and connecting people to jobs so that as the city grows it benefits everyone.

According to Worthington, there's probably not much in the plan that changes the vision for downtown; it will continue to change and will look different in the future but not due to the plan. There will be increasing emphasis on transit and moving away from an over-parked downtown. While the City is trying to increase housing density throughout Minneapolis, downtown will be the location for the highest density with emphasis on fairly tall buildings and less stick development. The small area plan and zoning code will be reworked in a couple years after the comp plan is completed.

Since there will be two LUC meetings before the July 22nd deadline, Frazell invited everyone to wander through the easy-to-use website and attend upcoming open houses in order to determine whether the LUC wants to recommend any actions related to the comp plan.

H. 11th Avenue South Bike Lane Update. As follow-on to the April 3rd LUC meeting, Walsh advised she and McCrea attended the Mill District Traffic Community Meeting on May 3rd at Stonebridge Lofts where three City staff attended and presented their plans (reference email from CM Fletcher dated May 11th included in Board package at <https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Summary-of-Mill-District-Traffic-Meeting.pdf>). After the audience provided input, the City agreed to (1) count bike, pedestrian and car traffic on 11th Avenue this summer; and (2) strongly consider moving all parking on 11th Avenue between Washington Avenue and 2nd Street to the opposite side of the street to address the safety concerns that were voiced. Walsh believes the City will review the project again and is being responsive, but a final decision has not been made.

Budgeting and safety were also discussed during which the City claimed it has no money budgeted for safety. Walsh believes the City should have enough funds to install in the middle of the intersection of 11th Avenue and 2nd Street a pedestrian crossing sign similar to the one at the Guthrie Theatre crossing to the Riverfront Municipal Ramp because, according to an article she read, it would help increase compliance to stopping for pedestrians by 70 percent. She also stated the City advised there is no long-term traffic plan or vision for this area.

Tamburino advised because the Eleven on the River project wants a curb cut on West River Parkway, traffic will be brought up again at the next LUC meeting. Neither Ward 4 City Council Member Steve Fletcher nor District 4 MPRB Commissioner Jono Cowgill are in support of such a curb cut; however, the Minneapolis Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services have sent letters stating they must have a curb cut.

Thereafter, Tamburino moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the aforementioned recommended letters of support. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Chair's Report

- A. Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction Project Stakeholders Advisory Committee** (<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/participate/>). It meets once a month and will be doing so over the next 3 years for the duration of the project. It's almost fully funded; it has \$20 million of the \$25 million needed. They are working on easily accessible bus shelters, pedestrian traffic that doesn't infringe upon bike lanes, and trees that are well maintained. More public open houses are forthcoming.
- B. Hennepin Avenue Safety Committee.** It also meets once a month and is hosted by the Hennepin Theatre Trust and attended by 1st Precinct Inspector Eddie Frizell. The good news is there hasn't been one murder in downtown this year; highly unusual. Tamburino likes Frizell who has poured a lot of resources into the power shift where there are extra officers on Hennepin Avenue, as well as into the Community Response Team (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/police_about_community-response).
- C. Neighborhood Alliance.** Shane Zahn, Director of Safe Initiatives at the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, and Reneé Allen, Crime Prevention Specialists, have asked Tamburino and Heidi Johnston, 1st Precinct Community Attorney, to work on this initiative to monitor public safety in the Hennepin Avenue area.
- D. The Commons Dog Relief Area.** Tamburino suggested as a topic at an upcoming LUC meeting requesting Green Minneapolis to install another dog relief area closer to the Edition Apartments and Starbucks; the existing one at the eastern edge is hardly used and not well maintained.

VII. 2018 Northern Spark Festival

Sarah Peters, Co-Director of Northern Spark Festival (<https://2018.northernspark.org/>), returned this year to inform the Board of changes to this year's event. They are experimenting with a 2-night festival on Friday, June 15th and Saturday, June 16th, 9:02 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. versus the dusk to dawn art experience. The venues will all be in downtown Minneapolis, i.e.: at The Commons, Hennepin County Central Library, and in partnership with DID, animation of blocks between 3rd and 8th Streets on Nicollet to highlight the public art investments.

The theme will be "commonality," what we have in common in divisive times, and how we get along in public spaces. There will be an opening ceremony on Friday night at The Commons and the Mayor will interview the artist team that won the Creative City Challenge. Their annual fundraising party is on Saturday night at Le Meridien Chambers rooftop lounge.

Because last year's festival was in seven venues between Minneapolis and St. Paul and took 2 years to plan, they are following an accordion model where in one year there is a smaller footprint allowing them to plan for a larger footprint in 2019.

Downtown resident Laura Ross advised she was part of the Night Library at Northern Spark in The Commons last year and will be returning again this year.

VIII. DMNA Outreach and Collaboration

The first Community Engagement meeting in Rajtar’s residence at the Atrium Apartments, 314 Hennepin Avenue, is scheduled on Tuesday, June 12th beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the dining room. Residents will be engaged to receive feedback and hard copies of the survey will be provided for those unable to access the internet. Tamburino and Frazell will also be in attendance.

Newly elected Board member Senkyr was enlisted to schedule the next CE meeting at the Crossings. Other venues will be decided as the project progresses.

The survey will be launched on June 1st, the results of which will be presented at the annual meeting.

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 May 2018 Board materials on the DMNA’s website.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business,

McCrea moved and Bernhardt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamburino called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Chair

Secretary