



**DMNA**  
**DOWNTOWN**  
**MINNEAPOLIS**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD**  
**ASSOCIATION**

40 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, STE 212 PMB 172  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
Phone: (612) 659-1279  
Online: [www.thedmna.org](http://www.thedmna.org)

November 16, 2018

Ms. Shanna Sether, Senior City Planner  
City of Minneapolis  
250 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #300  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

RE: Target Field Plaza Enhancements – site plan review and variances

Dear Shanna:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association regarding the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's land use applications to make enhancements to the Target Field Plaza. Representatives from the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, the Minnesota Twins and Populous presented the site plan and variance applications to the DMNA Land Use Committee on November 4, 2018.

Dan Kenney from the Minnesota Ballpark Authority introduced himself and explained the reason for the project. He stated that since Target Field opened in 2010, there have been significant changes in security procedures and in ticket verification methods and technology. The goal of the redesign is to screen and process fans more promptly, maintain the open feel of the plaza and avoid the use of temporary fencing and tents on game days.

Kenney then reviewed the redesign, which shifts Gate 34 out in a staggered, stair-step pattern starting from the corner of the ballpark under Bat & Barrel and running across the existing plaza located above Interstate 394, toward Ramp B. He explained that this new configuration will add two more gates for screening and scanning fans into the ballpark, while maintaining public access to and through the plaza space at all times. He emphasized that the popular baseball glove sculpture will remain outside of the gate and completely accessible to the public. A permanent canopy will cover all of the new gates to protect the magnetometers and ticket scanning equipment from the weather. Kenney also highlighted a benefit of the new gate configuration. There will be an expanded greenspace feature just inside the gate that will allow parents with young children more area to run and play during games.

Kenney stated that the new configuration requires two variances from the City plaza standards relating to seating and plantings and site plan review. He noted that there is a net loss of pedestrian plaza space at Gate 34 to accommodate the new gate line alignment, which is required to add additional entry points. He did note that the loss of plaza space is not significant due to the decrease in usage of the Gate 34 since the ballpark opened in 2010.

After some questions and discussion, the Land Use Committee recommended approval of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority's site plan and variance applications for their proposed enhancements to the Target Field Plaza. The DMNA Board reviewed and support the recommendation at its meeting on November 19.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at [christie@thedmna.org](mailto:christie@thedmna.org) or by phone at 320-583-4573.

Sincerely,

Christie Rock Hantge  
DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator

CC: Council Member Steve Fletcher  
Joe Tamburino, DMNA Board Chair  
Kevin Frazell, DMNA Land Use Committee Chair  
Dan Kenney, Minnesota Ballpark Authority