

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2019

Mill City Museum Mill Ruins Building

710 South 2nd Street, 6th Floor ADM Conference Room

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Joe Tamburino called the Board meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Max Erickson
Kevin Frazell
Stephan Hill
Pam McCrea, Vice Chair
Tomek Rajtar
Joey Senkyr
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Steve Fletcher, Ward 3 Council Member
Amanda Kreller, Yellow Dog Studio
Tom Novak, American Trio Lofts
Alexis Valencia, University of Minnesota student
Dale White, RiverWest Condominiums

II. Consideration of Agenda

After removal of the NCEC | Neighborhoods 2020 update,

Rajtar moved and Erickson seconded a motion to approve the Board meeting agenda as amended. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Consideration of the Consent Agenda

After Treasurer Dianne Walsh advised she reviewed all of the financial documents she received from Rock Hantge and found no issues,

Erickson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Board meeting minutes dated March 25, 2019; F2019 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending March 31, 2019; 2018 IRS Form 990-EZ and 2018 MN Charitable Organization Annual Report; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for March 2019 (Invoice #051), all of which were made available online for advance review. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.

IV. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Steve Fletcher reported on the following:

- Thanks to everyone for being the 2019 NCAA Men's Final Four hosts. It was a success and businesses reported better outcomes than during Super Bowl LII.
- Downtown road construction has begun for 8th Street (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMSP-218402>), and Hennepin Avenue (<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/>).
- As of Monday, April 15th, the City changed its parking meter rates, hours of enforcement, and maximum parking times in downtown to provide convenient short-term parking for retailers and to encourage using off-street parking options, i.e., parking ramps, for longer durations (<https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/minneapolis-changes-rates-enforcement-hours-time-limits-to-more-than-2600-downtown-parking-meters>). What the City did differently from what was originally presented was to make all parking meters in Downtown East for 2 hours versus just along the commercial nodes where retail is and parking for 4 hours everywhere else. He has asked Public Works to take another look at these changes, particularly around the Open Book facility that conducts classes.
- Public Works has cut a deal with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation to close the sidewalk gap on South 1st Street as part of the construction of the Water Works project.
- We're officially in the scooter and ebike season. Of the 7 companies who applied under the extended pilot program as motorized foot scooter vendors, 4 contracts were awarded: JUMP, Lyft, Spin and Lime (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/trans/WCMSP-212816>). Nice Ride Minnesota is expanding its fleet to include electric bikes (<https://www.americaninno.com/minne/inno-news-minne/nice-ride-will-roll-out-minneapolis-first-electric-bikes-this-spring/>).
- The Commons will be under the ownership and control of the MPRB, at least until the lawsuit is resolved (<http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/parks/2019/02/judge-gives-city-park-board-until-may-to-resolve-commons-park-management/>). In the short term, the MPRB has assumed the contract the City had with Green Minneapolis.
- After a hiatus, the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership, a nonprofit created in 2008 by the MN legislature to help the City continue its riverfront revitalization efforts and implement riverfront plans (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2010/mandated/100879.pdf>), has been reactivated and is alive and well again. It held its first Board meeting in 2019 on April 18th at City Hall. The new officers are: Council Members Fletcher and Phillippe Cunningham as Co-Chairs; Mike Derus as Vice Chair; Carletta Sweet as Secretary; and Mary Jamin Maguire as Treasurer. Information will be shared as developments occur and focus will continue to be on the riverfront and making it an important asset for everyone.
- Received a report from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers regarding the disposition of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Projects/Article/692881/disposition-study-upper-st-anthony-falls-and-lock-and-dam-upper-mississippi-riv/>). USACE is getting deep into the weeds of the logistics of how the City would take it over and turn it into a public space.
- The Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights, and Engagement Committee (PECE) is holding a public hearing on the Neighborhoods 2020 framework on Monday, May 6th at 1:30 p.m., at City Hall. He doesn't expect any decisions will be made on that date.
- Kicking off a public conversation about the possible relocation of the Minneapolis Police Department's First Precinct 5 years down the line. He thought it worth mentioning given the DMNA's efforts to install a substation in Downtown East.

Fletcher then responded to a broad range of questions and comments from the Board including issues related to the protected bike lanes and stacked bollards on the sidewalk; how the spring flooding on the Mississippi River and resulting loss in barge traffic at the Locks and Dams, as reported by KSTP, is impacting businesses – not an issue for the Upper St. Anthony as it closed in June 2015; how changes in parking meter rates and times impact residents at and near American Trio Lofts; and what the City can do about the inconsistency in the rollout of the Nice Ride bikes.

Lastly, Fletcher advised AECOM is working on the term sheet for its proposed mixed-use project at 800 Washington Avenue, and has paid the extension fee for the exclusive development rights due every 3 months (<https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2019/05/24/condo-developer-for-mill-district-site-granted.html>).

V. Land Use Committee Report

A. Smith & Porter Restaurant. Amanda Kreller, Interior Designer at Yellow Dog Studio (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/amandaiverson>), distributed a 20-page project information packet and presented the Heritage Preservation Commission's Certificate of Appropriateness application for the Smith & Porter Restaurant located within Abiitan Mill City at 428 South 2nd Street (<https://www.abiitan.org/>). Due to the timing of the notification from the applicant, and the HPC review scheduled for April 23rd, this needed to take place at the Board meeting versus at the LUC meeting on May 7th.

Kreller explained Ecumen (<https://www.ecumen.org/>) is the owner and operator of both the AMC and S&PR and is proposing strategic exterior improvements to their existing sidewalk property to reposition the entry experience for the restaurant portion of the building. Since the Ecumen development is located within the St. Anthony Falls Historic District (http://www.minneapolismn.gov/hpc/landmarks/hpc_landmarks_st_anthony_falls), this project requires a Certificate of Appropriateness application.

Kreller explained the goals of the project and described the proposed strategic additions (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-218305.pdf>), i.e., a trellis structure, sidewalk illumination, and monument signage at the existing walkway between South 2nd Street and the Smith & Porter patio gate, which is currently a second means of entry to the restaurant. The proposed changes will clearly indicate that the patio is the primary entrance to the restaurant.

The Board expressed appreciation for the contributions the restaurant has made to the neighborhood and the desire to see it succeed. Thereafter,

McCrea moved and Sweet seconded a motion to support Ecumen's Certificate of Appropriateness application for the Smith & Porter Restaurant exterior improvements. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rock Hantge will notify CPED Planner Aaron Hanauer prior to the HPC meeting on April 23rd

about the DMNA's support for the proposed projects.

B. Update on April 2nd LUC Meeting. LUC Chair Kevin Frazell reported on the following projects:

- 1. Oakland Apartments.** John Kistler presented on the rehabilitation of the Oakland Apartments located at 213-215 South 9th Street. This property was badly damaged by a fire in October of 2016. The previous owners, the Meyer Gonyea Partnership, tried to find someone to purchase the property, but did not have any success, so they applied for a demolition permit. The Heritage Preservation Commission denied the application. Kistler and his partner Norman Kulba stepped forward to purchase and rehabilitate the property into apartments. Kistler and Kulba have rehabilitated other historic properties in Minneapolis, including a bed and breakfast located at 300 Clifton Avenue.

No letter of support was requested at this time. To follow progress on the rehabilitation, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/oaklandson9th/>.

- 2. 801 Chophouse.** Erica Freeman with Shea Architects and Jamie Lynch, owner of 801 Chophouse, presented on a sign variance application. Lynch would like to install a blade sign on Nicollet Mall that does not meet the current standard of the Nicollet Mall Overlay District for both the size and type of signage.

In general, the LUC liked the design of the proposed sign. They see this business and its proposed signage as an opportunity to bring life back to this part of the Nicollet Mall. However, the LUC expressed concern over recommending approval for something that does not meet the current standards. Frazell noted there will likely be other similar applications for this on the Nicollet Mall in the near future, e.g., at The Dayton's Project building (<http://www.thedaytonproject.com/>). The LUC would like to see the City review the current Overlay District guidelines and consider whether they truly reflect the current future vision for the Mall.

Rock Hantge reported that as of the date of the Board meeting, Lynch has not submitted an application to the City. CPED Planner Andrew Frenz reported that Lynch is considering a second variance application to install an additional sign on 8th Street. Because of this, Rock Hantge has not drafted a letter outlining the LUC's opinion about the proposed signage. If there is a second variance application, Freeman and Lynch will need to come back to the LUC. She has been in communication with Freeman on several occasions, but Lynch has not made a decision yet.

The Board took no action on this item.

VI. Old / New / Other Business

- A. Water Bottle Project.** McCrea reported this team – comprised of herself, Matt Erickson, Brenda Langton and Martha Archer of Mill City Farmers Market, and Rock Hantge – has selected and ordered over 1,000 water bottles and because of the size of the box in which they are contained, i.e., 6'x5', secured space on the 10th floor of the Bridgewater Lofts to store them. The bottles will

be distributed, one per family, at the Personal Safety Class that will be held in partnership with EPNI, and the DMNA days at the Mill City Farmers Market on June 15th and July 20th (more days could be added). Rock Hantge is working on a marketing piece to insert into the water bottles, and McCrea and Erickson are working on a 1-page survey to help identify downtown residents and seek input on neighborhood priorities; the MCFM has a ton of data they've collected over the years and the DMNA would like to augment it. The entire Board is expected to participate in the effort.

- B. Personal Safety Class.** Rock Hantge advised this 90-minute class will take place at The Commons on Tuesday, June 11th, 6:00 p.m. with Minneapolis Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist Reneé Allen, and Gail Boxrud and Dante Pastrano of Krav Maga Minneapolis (<https://kravmagampls.com/gail-and-dante>). The rain date is on Tuesday, June 18th. Rock Hantge is working on a flyer for the event. The DMNA and EPNI will share the \$250 cost for the instructors.
- C. Police Substation.** Tamburino provided an update on his negotiations with Sherman Associates for the space at The Vicinity. The \$1 annual lease remains in place, and there will be no charge for utilities. He, CPS Reneé Allen, and Shane Zahn, DID Director of Safety Initiatives, will do a walkthrough of the space with Andy Bollig, SA's Development Associate on May 7th. The space is anticipated to be available in November 2019, and will have a shower, cabinets, dishwasher and fridge; he's also asked for bike racks. It could be a physical space to receive DMNA mail and perhaps to hold Board meetings. Once it's close to being opened, he'll make a formal request for DMNA NRP funds, and going forward will likely conduct an annual fundraiser similar to what the Northeast Business Association does for its substation (<https://heartofnortheast.com/events/2019/5/27/police-fundraiser>).
- D. Neighborhoods 2020.** As Fletcher noted earlier, there's a Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights, and Engagement Committee (PECE) public hearing on Monday, May 6th, 1:30 p.m., at City Hall.
- E. 2019 Goals and Priorities.** McCrea noted they are fulfilling the priority to seek information from the neighborhood and find out their expectations of the DMNA through the water bottle project. Walsh continues to look into possible strategies for fulfilling crime and safety and housing priorities.

VII. DMNA Outreach and Collaboration

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 April 2019 Board materials on the DMNA's website.

VIII. Next Board Meeting

After the Chair and others indicated their availability the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, 5:45 p.m., at the Mill City Museum.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business,

Sweet moved and Erickson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tamburino called for discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2019

Chair

Secretary