

## **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, September 16, 2019

*Mill City Museum Mill Ruins Building*

710 South 2nd Street, 6th Floor ADM Room

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

Chair Joe Tamburino called the Board meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Max Erickson  
Kevin Frazell  
Pamela McCrea, Vice Chair  
Tomek Rajtar  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Board Members Stephanie Hill and Joey Senkyr were absent.

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Guests in attendance included:

Dave Anderson, The Legacy Condominiums  
Danielle Elkins, City of Minneapolis Public Works  
Eric Kocaja, Lime  
Danny Lindholm, Litter Be Gone  
Jason Mumme, FirstService Residential  
Max Paletz, Spin  
Al Richwine, RiverWest Condominiums  
Justin Schlitz, Lyft  
Keith Thompson, Bridgewater Condominiums  
Doug Verdier, RiverWest Condominiums  
Bob Walsh, Bridgewater Condominiums  
Dale White, RiverWest Condominiums

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

*Sweet moved and Ericson seconded a motion to approve the Board meeting agenda as submitted. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

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

Treasurer Dianne Walsh advised she reviewed all the financial documents received from Hantge and found no issues. Thereafter,

*Walsh moved and McCrea seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the Board meeting minutes dated July 15, 2019; F2019 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending July 31, 2019 and August 31, 2019; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for July and August 2019 (Invoice #054 and Invoice #055), all of which were made available online for advance review. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### **IV. Ward 3 Update**

Council Member Fletcher reported on the following:

- Held a Short-Term Rental Listening Session on September 10th here at Mill City Museum in this room. There was a great turnout from a wide range of people who use it in many ways from those who rent a room in their home while on vacation to those who rent out blocks of apartments. Having gathered that feedback it will go back to staff who will convene meetings between departments to consider how it should be regulated.
- On August 8, the Wage Theft Ordinance (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/civilrights/LaborStandardsEnforcement/WCMSP-220149>) was unanimously passed, establishing the City's own set of requirements to prevent and punish wage theft. The draft ordinance will likely be improved upon before it goes into effect on January 1, 2020. They are also working on ways to extend it to freelance workers and on October 16th they'll be discussing this issue at Fueled Collective (<https://www.facebook.com/events/478008279717325/>).
- This week's Good Morning Ward 3 is on Wednesday, September 18th, 7:30 a.m. at Kramarczuk's with District 2 Hennepin County Commissioner Irene Fernando (<https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/leadership/2nd-district>) to discuss a lot of the collaborative work they're doing, e.g., around where County and City roads intersect and how to get their departments working better to solve traffic problems.
- On Friday, September 20th, they're hosting a study session on Renters' Opportunity to Purchase Housing (<https://www.facebook.com/events/344303319810101/>) which would give them a potential pathway to cooperative home ownership. They'd like to learn from Washington, DC's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (<https://ota.dc.gov/page/tenant-opportunity-purchase-act-topa>).
- Because of all the recent conversations about public safety, especially after some videos were released last week (<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2019/09/16/20-arrested-18-charged-in-brutal-downtown-minneapolis-robberies/>), he wanted us to know that by the time the videos came out arrests had already been made and since then robbery stats are way down.

Last week there were 3 robberies, 2 of which were mischaracterized, versus in the 20s and 30s during each week in August and that's more of what they'd like to see particularly while being understaffed. Then he described the way the MPD staffing is broken, i.e., the recruit class graduates twice a year, and then whatever attrition happens (medical leaves, retirements, promotions) they have to hope there's enough staff to cover that and enough recruits to cover whatever attrition occurs next. Attrition has been a little bit higher, there's some changes to the pension fund that motivates some retirements, and there's been a little uptick in medical leaves, so they ended up with staffing quite a bit below the level authorized. Essentially, they

need to figure out how to level out the staffing. They can talk about adding 14, but if they're down by 30 during certain times of the year, the 14 doesn't do nearly as much as they want to have happen. If they could smooth that out, that would be a much better safety improvement. There will be a lot more conversations about that.

Thereafter, he responded to questions about and received input on crime and safety, the proposed 2020 budget (<http://minneapolismn.gov/budget/index.htm>), and motorcycle noise.

## **V. Conversation with Minneapolis Scooter Operators**

Representatives from the three scooter companies with license agreements with the City introduced themselves: Eric Kocaja, General Manager at Lime (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/erickocaja>); Max Paletz, Senior Operations Manager at Spin (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/max-paletz-19a1a613>); and Justin Schlitz, Operations Manager at Lyft (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/justinschlitz>). Hantge advised Danielle Elkins (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielkins>) came on behalf of Josh Johnson (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joshua-a-johnson>) who was unable to attend; she'll be listening and reporting back to him.

Vice Chair Pamela McCrea kicked off the conversation by expressing her concerns and observations as a resident living near Gold Medal Park, e.g.: because tons of people use GMP, every single night there are scooters on the sidewalk as well as along the spiral sidewalk leading up to the sculptural observation mound; she has almost been hit by them; they've obstructed wheel chair users from crossing barrier free curbs; suburbanites have been allowing preschoolers to ride them.

Walsh expressed concern over the number of people disregarding the rules by riding on sidewalks and not wearing a helmet. She believes the scooter operators are not enforcing the rules and riders are not adhering to or know the rules which is impacting the quality of life in downtown; the scooter operators should take ownership of enforcement.

After hearing additional concerns about the number of accidents with injuries, whether they have liability insurance (they do, but riders must also have insurance), feeling unsafe riding them in the streets, scooters' top speed (15 mph), the scooter operators acknowledged not all riders follow the rules, but they're taking steps to change this. They've been around for 2 years, 3 months with 2 companies last year, and 5 months with 3 companies this year so they're not throwing their hands up yet on reducing rule infractions. It took 110 years to get rules in place from when vehicles first became disruptive to the horse and buggy and people continue to break rules today despite the ton of instructions and information given. They are all in alignment that safety is their No. 1 goal, and they can make the city safer by changing the way cities behave so that it's safe for all modes of transit and transportation, e.g., installing more signage stating where riders should be or not be, hosting information tables at Open Streets events, and helmet giveaways. Minneapolis and St. Paul are the top 10 players globally in number of rides daily, and it will take time to develop a symbiotic relationship with all modes of transit and transportation, but they are committed to ensuring that happens.

The scooter operators committed to finding new ways to communicate the rules with riders. Hantge will work with them to identify and share possible new communication partnerships. For more information on the City's scooter program, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/trans/WCMSP-212816>.

## **VI. East Town Business Partnership Membership Renewal Request**

Dan Collision explained he has the privilege of serving on a board in one of the growing edges of downtown, i.e., as Executive Director of East Town Business Partnership which is celebrating its 40th year. It began in 1979 as the Elliot Park Business and Professional Association, and subsequently changed its name to the East Downtown Council in 1999. Then when the stadium legislation passed in 2012 (<https://minnlawyer.com/2012/05/25/how-the-stadium-deal-was-done/>), and Ryan Companies and Wells Fargo decided to redevelop five blocks of surface parking lots adjacent to the new U.S. Bank Stadium (<https://www.ryancompanies.com/project/downtown-east>), Downtown East, which includes the Mill District, was thrown into the conversation about how to stitch it together with Elliot Park, and a subsequent rebranding effort changed its name to the ETBP in 2016 (<https://easttownmpls.org/about/>).

As part of this annual membership renewal request, he's here to explain how the ETBP works on behalf of the Downtown East and Elliot Park neighborhoods through its 5-Year Strategic Framework (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ETBP-StrategicPlan-2018-2022-Approved.pdf>). Carletta Sweet has served as the DMNA ex officio on the ETBP Board since 2005, and Christie Rock Hantge serves as the Executive Coordinator and with whom the DMNA shares staff; both bring connectivity and collaboration between the two organizations. At each of the ETBP's monthly forums, he talks about the DMNA's programming and events, the next being on Thursday, September 19th at the Ironclad (<https://easttownmpls.org/event/etbp-mdc-joint-business-forum-on-september-19-at-the-ironclad/>).

The four themes woven into the Strategic Framework on which their work is focused are: (1) Connection and Collaboration; (2) Advocacy and Resourcing; (3) Leadership and Voice; and (4) Sound and Sustainable Organizational Structure. One of the more interesting projects they've undertaken with the Minneapolis Downtown Council, on which he serves as the Director of Downtown Partnerships, under Advocacy and Resourcing is bringing in social enterprises and new and more diverse businesses into vacant retail spaces mostly in the CBD, i.e., the Chameleon Consortium (<https://www.chameleonconsortium.com/>) which launched pop-ups in Gaviidae Common this past April.

The ETBP also brings the neighborhoods' narrative – on the built environment, transit and transportation corridors, public safety, and art, culture and entertainment – to the 12,000-15,000 employees, very small and very large employers such as Cassia (formerly Augustana Care), Thrivent Financial, Hennepin Healthcare.

Collision also serves on the board in the other growing edge of downtown, i.e., as Executive Director of NūLoop Partners (<https://www.nulooppartners.org/>), and as in the case with the ETBP he's connecting DMNA's priorities to the issues on which NūLoop Partners is focused, e.g., ABC Ramps Re-envisioning, Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station.

As a former member of the DMNA Board, he is grateful for its continued support of the ETBP.

*Frazell moved and Erickson seconded a motion to renew the DMNA's membership with the East Town Business Partnership for the 2019-2020 season at the Gold level and the monthly forum fee. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **VII. 2019 Litter Be Gone Event**

Danny Lindholm, Alliance for Sustainability volunteer (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/danny-lindholm-476747141>), thanked the DMNA for participating in the 2019 Litter Be Gone. LBG is a series of fall events hosted by residents, neighborhoods and other organizations to clean up litter from Minneapolis neighborhood streets and boulevards before it becomes covered by leaves and snow, and to prevent it from ending up in our storm drains and waterways. This annual campaign starts the first Thursday in October and runs through the second Saturday in October. Events are supported by the Alliance for Sustainability, the City of Minneapolis, and other partners as part of the Clean City Minneapolis program (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/cleancity/index.htm>).

The DMNA and the North Loop Neighborhood Association are co-hosting an event on Saturday, October 12th (<https://www.thedmna.org/event/dmna-north-loop-neighborhood-association-litter-be-gone-clean-up/>); Hantge picked that date because the Twin Cities Marathon takes place the first weekend in October.

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

## VIII. Land Use Committee Report

LUC Chair Kevin Frazell and McCrea reported on the following projects from the August 5th and September 3rd LUC meetings:

- A. Bimosedaa Supportive Housing Project.** Representatives from Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative presented this proposed 48-unit, supportive housing apartment project (<https://www.beaconinterfaith.org/blog/organizing/overview-bimosedaa/>) to the LUC on two occasions: May 7th and September 3rd. The issues raised at the former meeting were addressed at the latter.

Bimosedaa, Ojibwe for “let’s walk together,” will cater to members of the Red Lake Nation who are transitioning out of homelessness and Beacon is working with Avivo (<https://avivomn.org/>) as their service provider. Avivo will offer intensive services focused on jobs, education, health, and community connection.

The LUC requested that if Beacon decides to allow pets, they include an onsite pet relief area, and to carefully consider how they make improvements to the public realm. They suggested using raised planters and/or fencing around any greenspace in the sidewalk. They also asked they be mindful of future street reconstruction projects as they solidify their landscaping plans.

The LUC recommended providing a letter of support for their gap financing applications.

- B. 301 Nicollet Avenue.** Representatives from Opus, ESG Architects, and Ten X Studio presented the project to the LUC on two occasions this summer; June 4th and August 5th (<http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-219353.pdf>). The plan calls for a 20-story, mixed-use building with 5,380 square feet of ground floor retail space and 357-370 apartments on the upper floors. The plan also includes a five-level parking ramp with 351 parking spaces accessed off 3rd Street South. The developer plans to conceal the ramp within the core of the building, and requested support for the following land use applications:

- Variance from the Nicollet Mall Overlay District Standard standards to allow a building wall to be more than 8 feet from the property line;

- Variance from the Nicollet Mall Overlay District standards to allow less than 60% of the ground floor gross square footage as retail; and
- Site Plan Review

The LUC has a strong interest in the public realm and wants to see the developer meet or exceed the guidelines established in the Downtown Public Realm Framework and expects the developer will come back and present more refined public realm plans at a later date.

The LUC recommended providing a letter of support.

**C. 233 Park Avenue Renovation.** Shane LaFave, Director of Development at Sherman Associates, presented this project. The biggest change is the replacement of the Old Spaghetti Factory with a Pinstripes restaurant which combines bowling and bocce with exceptional food and wine (<https://www.sherman-associates.com/uncategorized/pinstripes-is-coming-to-minneapolis-but-sherman-associates-has-some-work-to-do-first/>). In addition to the restaurant change, LaFave highlighted the following aspects of the renovation project:

- Adding an elevator to the interior of the building;
- Adding an enclosed stair tower to the south façade of the building;
- Adding a rooftop deck/4th floor that will include approximately 3,000 square feet of indoor space; and
- Adding a to-be-determined commercial tenant to the lower level (won't change the square footage of the building).

LaFave stated that they do not anticipate any zoning changes or variances would be necessary to complete the renovation project.

The LUC recommended providing a letter of support.

Thereafter,

*McCrea moved and Rajtar seconded a motion to approve the letters of support for the above-cited development projects. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

Lastly, Frazell advised Hantge is working on scheduling a meeting with Hantge, Frazell, Randy Manthey, Thomas Schmid, and CPED Director David Frank and some of his staff who work on downtown projects, to get a better view of their process because there have been a number of projects that have left the LUC baffled.

The next Land Use Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st.

## **IX. Old / New / Other Business**

**A. 2019 Annual Meeting.** McCrea provided an update on the Year in Review video being prepared by Peter Zenner, a former DMNA Board member who created the one for October 2018. McCrea and Frazell will work with Zenner to guide its content. Thereafter,

*Sweet moved and Ericson seconded a motion to allocate up to \$1,000 for Peter Zenner to create a "Year in Review" video for the annual meeting. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

- B. DMNA Tablecloth and Retractable Banner.** Hantge reviewed the cost of the tablecloth and the retractable banner while displaying a mock-up of what the tablecloth will look like to show the positioning of the DMNA logo.

*Sweet moved and McCrea seconded a motion to approve purchasing a tablecloth and retractable banner to be used at DMNA events. Tamburino called for discussion. The motion passed.*

- C. Debriefing on National Night Out at The Commons.** Tamburino, McCrea and Walsh described their experience participating in the NNO event. There were at least 500 people in attendance. All agreed it was a great success and would recommend doing it again in 2020.
- D. Debriefing on the Crime and Safety Public Forum.** There was good feedback about this event. There were about 40 people in attendance. The Board thanked Tamburino for putting the event together, including coordinating speakers and preparing the PowerPoint presentation. Going forward, McCrea and Walsh asked to be more involved in putting the presentation together.
- E. Gethsemane Community Garden.** Hantge explained the community gardeners at Gethsemane Episcopal Church have contacted her about the possibility of the DMNA becoming the host of their program (<https://www.amindtowork.org/garden>) and the holder of their liability insurance policy. The Church is closing in November and is unsure whether they will be able to continue as the program's host. Hantge doesn't have enough information at this time to provide a recommendation. This is simply a heads up about something she's working on and the possibility the Board may need to act on the request at an upcoming meeting.

## **X. DMNA Outreach and Collaboration**

- A. Washington Avenue Cleanup.** Tamburino reminded everyone the next one is on Saturday, September 28th, 10 a.m. to Noon. Meet at the Whole Foods on Hennepin Avenue to pick up garbage bags if you plan to participate.
- B. DMNA Day at the Mill City Farmers Market.** McCrea reminded everyone the final one this season is on Saturday, October 5th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She will be distributing water bottles and obtaining responses to the survey. All are welcome to help. Erickson has committed to entering the data from the survey.

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 September 2019 Board materials on the DMNA's website.

## **XI. Next Board Meeting**

Monday, October 28th, 5:15 p.m., at Open Book, prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

**XII. 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 7:40 p.m.*

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary