

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2020

Via Zoom

(https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/opBeBbHU3U1Ib53qwVDWU5AIHZz_T6a80CBLrvYIzke9xOAFbczay2AS6YN9UVQ,

Access Password: 1A!96ea@)

I. Call to Order

Chair Pamela McCrea called the Board meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Max Erickson
Kevin Frazell, Vice Chair
Tomek Rajtar
Laurie Rice
Joey Senkyr
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Joe Tamburino
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Gail Asher	Betsy Michel
Rick Crispino, Bridgewater Lofts	Drew Miskella
Dan Collison, ETBP, NūLoop Partners	Merv Moorhead
Doug Craven	Laura Moran
Allison Christensen	David Plimpton
Larry Dole, The Legacy Condominiums	Leann Rabaey
Katie Donohue	Mary Ramos
John Edwards	Thomas Schmid, Washburn Lofts
Steve Fletcher, Minneapolis Ward 3	Derrek Schulte
Steven Gallagher, Minneapolis NCR	Katie Searl
Anthony Heredia	Alan Shilepsky, The Towers
Christopher Hoffer	Mary Suilmann, Bridgewater Lofts
Stella Kim, The Legacy Condominiums	Mary Cate Waris
Rick Kreuser, Minneapolis Public Works	Laurie Zenner
LaDonna Meinecke	
Jana Metge, Citizens for Loring Park Community	

II. Consideration of Agenda

McCrea explained due to the number of community residents tuning in on the call, she'd like to move Council Member Fletcher's Ward 3 update to the top of agenda and the Board's open conversation regarding the state of the neighborhood to the bottom. Thereafter,

Frazell moved and Walsh seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

III. Ward 3 Update

CM Fletcher explained they've been through a lot at the City. Three weeks ago they were already in the kind of crisis they hoped never to be governing through with COVID, then they woke up the day after Memorial Day to the video of George Floyd's murder, and the aftermath has been an unbelievable strain on our community. They've taken a look around and said they need to make a significant structural change and that's the framework under which they're operating moving forward.

He's had the chance over the last couple of years to attempt reform; he's watched the interaction between the Mayor, City Council and MPD, and he sees hard limits to what's possible within the existing framework. Starting fresh with a new department and new approach is the direction many of them are talking about; it's something not done quickly so they'll continue to look at what reforms they need to do in the short term as they continue to operate.

A few steps forward include unanimously passing a resolution to create a transformative new model for policing (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/tommybeer/2020/06/12/minneapolis-city-council-unanimously-votes-to-replace-police-with-community-led-model/#714982fd71a5>), and announcing notice of intent to change the City Charter (<https://takeactionminnesota.org/why-we-need-to-change-the-minneapolis-charter/#:~:text=On%20June%2012%2C%20members%20of%20the%20Minneapolis%20City,of%20the%20Police%20Department%20as%20a%20Charter%20Department.%E2%80%9D>).

Since the Charter defines a police department and they want to be able to enact the vision people are putting forward – create a new public safety department with a broader mission and vision – the best way for achieving this is by amending the City Charter and they moved it forward on Friday so it could be on the 2020 November ballot. It's a little late in the process, and it might get pushed into 2021. In the meantime, he's been talking to the community all over the Ward in as many venues as possible.

Thereafter, Fletcher responded to questions and received feedback from the Board. He explained the urgency and speed in which they responded was because the MPD was already in a place of uncertainty, e.g., unsure of what would happen if you called 911, and what they were hearing from people and businesses historically supportive of MPD who were no longer supportive. Declaring a vision, plan, and process for moving forward felt more peaceful and constructive, and the position he publicly took was after receiving feedback from many community members in Ward 3.

The City Charter doesn't give the City Council the ability to write policy; the CC, however, can pass ordinances. Things he's worked on include getting body cameras to compliance, a study on traffic stops on which they brought in local and national experts, hearings on a number of issues in their Public Safety meetings, and collaborative and problem-solving work with the MDC-DID and other groups. It's not above critique and there's ways he could have done more.

The way they've allowed policy to accrue overtime is as new problems arise in society, they've been assigned to the MPD whether it makes sense or not. One of the areas of policy where they were doing a pretty good intervention is, they started a deep dive 911 study work group designed to look

at the categories of 911 calls received and whether the right resources were directed to them.

As they propose changes, they'll need a transition plan on a timeline everyone understands and can weigh in on. Things are happening in multiple registers: the power the Mayor and Chief have to do reforms that can change policy within the MDP; the enforcement action suit by the Minnesota Department of Human Rights that will require significant reforms; reopening the 2020 budget this summer due to lost revenue related to COVID followed by the 2021 budget process. Along with dealing with these matters, they need to make sure they're doing a deep engagement process to make sure everyone feels confident the City is hearing what makes them feel safe and provide education about the alternatives.

Visit the link at the beginning of these minutes to hear the important questions posed and feedback received from the Board and the community.

IV. Update on and Renewal of Annual Membership on NūLoop Partners and East Town Business Partnership

Dan Collison, Executive Director for both NūLoop Partners and the East Town Business Partnership, provided an overview of each organization's mission, geographic reach, goals and priorities, as well as the history of the DMNA's involvement (reference his document Hantge forwarded on July 15th). Thereafter, he responded to questions from the Board.

The ETBP launched a Food and Hospitality Re-Open Collaborative/Coopetition (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coopetition>), on which Board Member Max Erickson is a member, to establish vitality in the bars and restaurants as a result of the impact COVID-19 has had on their businesses by creating a strategy to cross-promote, getting buy-in from the various operators, and leveraging place-based points of emphasis in Downtown East and Elliot Park through social media marketing. Because of their long-term interests in the area, Valerie Dole, VP of Marketing & Communications at Sherman Associates (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/valeriedoleman>) is driving the social media strategy. Collison has emailed and/or called all restaurants in the area and as they shift from operational to strategy mode, they'll do another round with the goal of sharing operational goals and best practices. McCrea advised she'll check with the owners/operators who have contacted her to see if they're interested.

Collison is asking the DMNA Board to consider renewing its annual membership on NūLoop Partners for \$1,000, and the ETBP for \$550. After some discussion,

Walsh moved and Frazell seconded a motion to renew the DMNA's memberships with both organizations. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Consideration of the Consent Agenda

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

Walsh moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the May Board meeting minutes; F2020 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending May 30, 2020; and the

Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for May (Invoice #065). McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Land Use Committee Report

Board Liaison Frazell advised because they didn't have any projects to review when they met on June 2nd, the LUC Chair Thomas Schmid spent the meeting reviewing and discussing their goals and activities as they're being impacted by COVID-19 and the aftermath of George Floyd's death. The group came up with many ways and things that could be done.

For context, as we emerge from these twin crises, how will downtown function since it's our area of responsibility and stewardship? Will citizens and people from around the country begin to view it as unsafe? The role the LUC has played in the past is advocating for a public realm that stays active, fun, and welcoming for everyone; a safe, engaging, energetic, unique place where people want to be.

Specific projects discussed were graffiti and vandalism, continuing to advocate for green space, potentially doing more around the Coronavirus, e.g., masks, handwashing stations or public restrooms. Their main recommendation was to consider establishing a public safety task force or standing committee to oversee the safety issues and now to include police reform/reinvigoration of community policing.

They also discussed being an advocate for making sure people see the transit system as being safe; meeting with the MDC-DID; building wider social networks and having stable civically engaged residential neighbors which speaks to the work of the HOA that Rice and McCrea are leading; expanded role as an information resource for downtown residents especially during public forums on community issues or development projects.

VII. Chairperson's Report

A. DMNA Strategic Planning Task Forces Updates

- 1. Branding.** Walsh advised McCrea was working on pulling together some bags for the MCFM and needed some collaborators; the meeting scheduled for the week of the 8th will be rescheduled when she's ready to move forward.

Walsh then urged the DMNA to get a logo on its mailbox and the PSC window. Tamburino said it's no problem to put one on the mailbox, and they're waiting for the MPD first to put theirs on the window; however, the MPD is afraid if they do, they'll be targeted. Walsh noted the MPD can wait until they're ready, but the DMNA needs to have theirs on. Hantge will work with Sherman Associates to make that happen.

- 2. HOA Advisory Group.** McCrea announced Larry Dole from The Legacy Condominiums who is on the call is interested. Then she and Rice explained in order to know where to invest DMNA resources and what issues should be brought to the forefront, they're trying to get a more diverse core of representatives from HOAs and apartment buildings within our geographical boundary to serve. Hantge has been promoting the new group via Facebook,

the weekly eblasts, and has sent an ad in the *Mill City Times*.

3. **Outreach and Collaboration.** Erickson reported he has reached out to ETBP's Food and Hospitality Re-Open Collaborative as Dan Collison mentioned earlier, and Green Minneapolis but hasn't gotten a reply. Hantge explained GM is in a transition process and Beth Shogren is leaving her position as Executive Director; she'll let Erickson know more when she finds out.

Then he reported last Friday, he and Frazell met with Collison and Steve Cramer, President and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, and discussed their priorities to determine if they are ways in which they can collaborate.

Frazell explained when O&C first met, it reviewed Sweet's chart to determine which group was important for the DMNA to intersect and connect, and the MDC and the ETBP kept popping up, so now they need to get together and evaluate what they've heard and decide what to do next. Regarding the meeting with Cramer and Collison, it went well, they were pleased we reached out and glad to know we want to collaborate on resources. Because they're a member organization, for us to come in as a co-equal partner in all their activities might be a little problematic, but there are a lot of areas where we might be able to collaborate, e.g., promoting downtown as a place to live by organizing walking tours. Their Ending Street Homelessness is still active and there's a possibility to connect with them there. Because Collison is the touchpoint for so many things, he'll keep an eye on opportunities and let us know.

- B. **Annual Meeting.** McCrea advised they're hoping to have an in-person meeting on October 27th, at Open Book and solicited volunteers for the planning committee. She explained we can be creative and make it fun for people to come; the sky is open. She noted it would be nice if there could be food and refreshments as the North Loop Neighborhood Association does. Erickson indicated willingness to lend advance planning skills with the knowledge he is expecting a couple of newborns around that time. Frazell also indicated interest in helping with advance planning to make it an energetic meeting.

VIII. New / Old / Other Business

- A. **Neighborhoods 2020.** Frazell and Hantge drafted a letter of response to the draft Neighborhoods 2020 Guidelines in advance of its July 31st deadline for review and approval (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DMNA-letter-of-response-to-the-Neighborhoods-2020-Guidelines-UPDATED.pdf>).

Frazell moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the draft letter of response . McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

- B. **Police Safety Center.** Tamburino reported its open and he purchased the desk and supplies and cleaned everything. Sgt. David O'Connor and Grant Snyder are working out of it and there may be a third officer attached to the Homeless Outreach Team.

In terms of public safety stats in the community, since June 1st there's been three aggravated assaults with a serious weapon, and a sexual assault. He could go down the list, but crime has dramatically increased. This information is readily available on the MPD crime map.

He's glad it's up and running, and depending upon what the City Council does with the 2020 budget which he suspects will be slashed, he has no idea where we'll be going forward.

He encouraged Board members to stop in and introduce themselves if they see them inside working.

- C. Open Conversation Regarding the State of the Neighborhoods.** The Legacy Condominiums resident Larry Dole introduced their Board member Stella Kim, and then advised he was on the June 2nd LUC call and provided comments that Schmid used in a letter to City Council members related to security. Subsequently, they had an HOA meeting where security was a primary topic; they've had several incidents in their building which has caused angst. Stella Kim volunteered to be part of a subgroup to examine security and benchmark other buildings.

Kim who moved here from Eden Prairie, explained the project they're working on to find out how many condo buildings have onsite security, or a front desk that is staffed 24 hours. Based on their limited research, it sounds like very few buildings currently do. Kim has contacted six security companies to get an estimate on what it would cost to have 24-hour coverage. McCrea suggested this would be a good discussion for the HOA Advisory Group.

Board members also talked about the number of boarded up buildings in the downtown community right now, including the American Academy of Neurology. Everyone agreed it's time for the plywood to come down. It would make the downtown community feel more welcoming, which could help bring people back to the restaurants.

- D. Neighborhood Organizations and Elections.** Steven Gallagher, Policy Specialist at the Neighborhood & Community Relations Department advised he just emailed information to Hantge and explained any Board member can be involved in a campaign of a political candidate, just make sure you don't bring the relationship into the Board itself, and if talking to press on behalf of or about the candidate, don't bring up your Board membership.

When it comes to taking a stand on a City policy or ordinances, or advocating on those that is completely acceptable for an organization.

IX. 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 June 2020 Board materials on the DMNA's website.

X. Next Board Meeting

Monday, July 20, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

XI. Adjournment

There be no further business,

Rice moved and Tamburino seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2020

Chair

Secretary