

## **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes from the Board Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 Via Zoom**

([https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mdIEX7olT7pKr-F03VPhf9HaTNwC1UWu\\_kUTLJ\\_3wPcwIh2gaMUFvwmCnUjKMR8.n7p5CppyXrkXGe0o](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mdIEX7olT7pKr-F03VPhf9HaTNwC1UWu_kUTLJ_3wPcwIh2gaMUFvwmCnUjKMR8.n7p5CppyXrkXGe0o))

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

Chair Pamela McCrea called the Board meeting to order at 5:45 p.m., expressed excitement that she, Joe Tamburino, and Kevin Frazell were reelected to serve, and welcomed new Board member Andy Gittleman.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Max Erickson  
Tomek Rajtar  
Laurie Rice  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Joe Tamburino  
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Rick Crispino, The Bridgewater Lofts  
Susan Field  
Steve Fletcher, Minneapolis Ward 3  
Tom Forsythe  
David Fries  
David Vander Haar  
Denise Holt, Park Avenue Lofts  
Kate Lamers, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board  
Rosa Miller  
Quentin Misiag, Ironclad Residences  
Merv Moorhead,  
Linda Oberpriller  
Eric Penne  
Thomas Schmid, Washburn Lofts  
Kevin Smith  
Mary Suilmann, Bridgewater Lofts

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

After McCrea moved Ward 3 Council Member Fletcher's report to after the election of Board officers,

*Sweet moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **III. Water Works Park Update**

Katherine Lamers, Design Project Manager at the MPRB (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katherine-lamers-a362a211/>), presented on the Water Works project (<https://mplsparksfoundation.org/Initiative/water-works/>) using a PowerPoint presentation that showed graphics of the park's construction process and financing structure. The preliminary planning started in 2012, she picked up the project with the job to get it built in 2016, and during its evolutionary changes she came before the DMNA Board several times with the last time being in 2018. What we now see before us is the final plan.

The last time she came before the DMNA Board, when they were getting more into the design detail and digging into these old Mills, they determined that more needed to be done and they were overbudget [hence, their request to use \$1.1 million in Downtown West Park Dedication Fees ([https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park\\_care\\_improvements/park\\_dedication/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_dedication/))].

Since then, they've done two construction projects:

- The grading and rehabilitation of the Mill walls which the Minneapolis Parks Foundation is largely funding and has made progress toward their philanthropic goal. The MPRB bid the project and it's mostly done.
- The public art project which the City allocated \$450,000 towards and it has just gotten started.

Lamers thanked the DMNA Board for supporting the use of \$1.1 million in Downtown West Park Dedication Fees in 2018, and explained she is seeking its support to allow the MPRB to access the remaining \$1.3 million in Downtown West Park Dedication Fees to complete Phase I of the project due to budget overruns. PDF are allocated through their Capital Improvement Program ([https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/about\\_us/budget\\_financial/capital\\_improvement\\_program/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/about_us/budget_financial/capital_improvement_program/)) for new projects, and this was in the draft CIP so there's still time to let Commissioners know how we feel.

They plan to be done with the final construction work for Phase I by January 2021, including the playground, artwork, and other final details. They anticipate the Pavilion, and the Sioux Chef will open to the public in spring 2021. At this time, there is no timeframe for moving forward with Phase II of the project.

*Tamburino moved and Walsh seconded a motion to provide a Letter of Support to use the remaining \$1.3 million in Downtown West Park Dedication fees for Water Works Park. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

For more information on Water Works, visit, [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park\\_care\\_improvements/park\\_projects/current\\_projects/water\\_works/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/water_works/).

For more information on the Sioux Chef, visit, <https://sioux-chef.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/thesiouxchef>.

#### **IV. Executive Committee Elections and Appointment of Board Liaisons to Committees**

McCrea requested Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock Hantge facilitate using Robert's Rules of Order.

- **Board Chair.** Hantge called for Board Chair nominations.

*Rajtar moved and Walsh seconded a motion to nominate McCrea for the position of Board Chair. McCrea accepted the nomination. Hantge asked if there were any further nominations. There being none, the motion passed with Tamburino opposing.*

- **Vice Chair.** McCrea called for Vice Chair nominations.

*Rajtar moved and Rice seconded a motion to nominate Walsh for the position of Vice Chair. Walsh thanked Rajtar for the nomination, but declined, stating she would prefer to stay in the position of Treasurer. Rice moved and Sweet seconded a motion to nominate Frazell for the position of Vice Chair. Frazell accepted the nomination. McCrea asked if there were any further nominations. There being none, the motion passed.*

- **Secretary.** McCrea called for Secretary nominations.

*Walsh moved and Frazell seconded a motion to nominate Sweet for the position of Secretary. Sweet accepted the nomination. McCrea asked if there were any further nominations. There being none, the motion passed.*

- **Treasurer.** McCrea called for Treasurer nominations.

*Rajtar moved and Rice seconded a motion to nominate Walsh for the position of Treasurer. Walsh accepted the nomination. McCrea asked if there were any further nominations. There being none, the motion passed.*

McCrea then turned to appointment of Board Liaisons to Committees explaining Civic Engagement, HOA Advisory, and Public Safety, are all new within the last 6 months, and they want to get more people in the community involved.

- **Civic Engagement.** Max Erickson and Dianne Walsh will serve as Board Liaisons.
- **HOA Advisory Group.** Pam McCrea and Laurie Rice will serve as Board Liaisons.
- **Land Use Committee.** Carletta Sweet will serve as the Board Liaison with Kevin Frazell continuing as a member.

- **Public Safety Task Force.** Kevin Frazell will serve as the Board Liaison with Joe Tamburino continuing as a member.

Thereafter, Tamburino stated he would like to introduce a public disclosure policy that would require Board members to divulge if they are actively fundraising or campaigning for a political candidate; Board members and residents are entitled to know this information. Then,

*Tamburino moved and Walsh seconded a motion to establish a public disclosure policy for Board members actively supporting political candidates. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

McCrea also suggested that the Board should have an ethics policy; this is something she plans to work on in 2021. The ethics policy would make it clear that Board members cannot speak as a representative of the DMNA unless the Board has specifically approved it.

Frazell disclosed he contributed to Council Member Fletcher’s campaign during a fundraiser held at the Aloft Hotel about a year ago.

Gittleman disclosed he actively supports Ward 7 Council Member Lisa Goodman.

## V. **Ward 3 Update**

Council Member Fletcher acknowledged that in light of the upcoming City Council elections, the DMNA Board’s new public disclosure policy is a good idea. He agreed that neighborhood organizations should not be involved in political campaigns. Then he reported on the following:

- **Short Term Rental Ordinance.** Tomorrow is the public hearing on the proposed update to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance (<https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/BIHZ/2074>) and he welcomes our feedback.
- **Transforming Public Safety Survey.** The initial survey that is kicking off the City’s public engagement efforts to transform public safety is now available on the City’s website (<http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/minneapolisforward/WCMSP-224910>). The purpose of this survey is for members of the Minneapolis community to identify what safety looks like, and to provide ideas for how a new model can be accomplished. Results from this survey will be used to help create recommendations for elected leaders and help guide the City’s next steps in our community engagement. Please submit responses by November 20th.
- **High Profile City Council Vote on \$500,000 Request.** Police Chief Medaria Arradondo requested \$500,000 to contract with the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office and Metro Transit for additional law enforcement officers. The request passed on a 7-6 vote (<https://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-city-council-narrowly-oks-plan-to-bring-in-outside-police/573066922/#:~:text=A%20divided%20City%20Council%20on,for%20violence%20around%20the%20city.>). Fletcher was not in support of the request and felt he did not get enough questions answered related to the request. At this point, there are no plans in place to move forward with the contract, as both Hennepin County and Metro Transit have said they do not have the manpower to provide the extra support.

- **FY 2021 Budget.** There are multiple opportunities for the public to comment on the FY2021 Budget (<http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/budget/index.htm>), the first being today and public safety discussions dominated. There are two more virtual meeting opportunities remaining.
  - Truth in Taxation on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:05 p.m.
  - Final Budget Hearing and Budget Adoption on Wednesday, December 9th at 6:05 p.m.

Comments can also be submitted [online](#) on the City's website, and will be entered into the public record and shared with the Mayor and Council Members.

Fletcher then responded to:

Tamburino's inquiry regarding why he didn't support the MPD's request for \$500,000 in funding to contract for additional help from outside law enforcement agencies and what is his plan to address the substantial increase in crime in Ward 3. *Fletcher stated he didn't feel there was a real plan in place for how the MPD would use these additional dollars and, that in fact, Chief Arradondo had not communicated his request with Hennepin County or Metro Transit prior to the meeting. At this point, neither agency has the manpower to help. He would prefer to see additional dollars directed toward the Group Violence Intervention Program (<http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/minneapolisforward/OVPIInitiatives>).*

Frazell's inquiry regarding whether the GVI program will address the random crimes like car jackings. *Fletcher stated car jackings are being committed by a small group of about 20 juveniles and is suggesting directing GVI program resources at families of these juveniles to help them get their kids under control or help them relocate to another part of the city to get them away from bad influences. He assured Frazell there is a law enforcement component on the front end and the back end of the GVI program. Essentially, it might take a village to help solve the problem with gang violence.*

Walsh's inquiry regarding whether the Short-Term Rental Ordinance will apply to existing and new construction. *Fletcher said yes and noted there will be different rules for buildings with 20 units or less, compared to larger buildings with more than 20 units. Larger buildings will have stricter rules. The City will limit the number of short-term units in larger buildings to 10%. This new ordinance will give the City the opportunity to intervene much more quickly, and it essentially treats short-term rentals the same way as Tier III properties.*

Tamburino's inquiry regarding whether the ordinance will include a minimum number of stay days. *Fletcher said the City does not plan to include a minimum number of stay days in the actual ordinance. Instead, it will work with individual buildings on a management plan that will set the minimum number of days. It will be part of the rule-making process where it more appropriately lives; likely a 3 or 5 day minimum.* Tamburino said he'd prefer to see it written into the ordinance itself and inquired about same day rentals. *Fletcher said the City will likely not allow them. The City will closely monitor what is working and what is not working.*

Gittleman's inquiry regarding what kind of resources come along with this new ordinance to help enforce it. *Fletcher said the City is raising the fee structure for this program; it will help deter poorly*

*run operations, and fees need to cover the cost of regulating. The City platforms will monitor where a location does not line up with a license.*

Resident Tom Forsythe's inquiry regarding 205 Park Avenue that has four condominiums. *Fletcher said he will have to do some checking on this and thought those units might all be exempt.* Forsythe also inquired about taxes on short-term rentals versus hotel properties. *Fletcher said a hotel by another name should be paying the same tax rate as hotels. Short-term rentals will have to pay a lodging tax via the fee structure. Otherwise changes to the tax structure would need to go through the state legislature.*

Resident Merv Moorhead's inquiry regarding the FY2021 Budget vote, whether Fletcher intends to support the Mayor's public safety proposal. *Fletcher said the City Council will likely introduce some changes to it. The Mayor presented his original budget proposal back in September and many new ideas have been discussed since. The Mayor will likely be amenable to the changes. The City Council's proposed changes will likely include dollars directed toward a more robust mental health response and violence prevention. He mentioned a pilot program with Hennepin County. They will also look at some staffing updates and changes.* Moorhead inquired about the three recruitment classes and whether they will all move forward as planned. *Fletcher said he's still trying to get answers on current staffing levels, e.g., who is on long-term leave. He thinks all three classes will run, but maybe not at the numbers that the Mayor originally proposed.*

Gittleman's inquiry regarding the components of the MPD's budget; he's wondering if this is where the monies for mental health response and crime prevention will go, or if they are in a separate crime and safety budget. *Fletcher said that at this point he is not sure where those funds will end up. He mentioned that the City Coordinator's Office may oversee these programs in partnership with Hennepin County, and there will definitely be interaction with the MPD though in some form.*

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

*Frazell moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the September meeting minutes; F2020 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending September 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for September (Invoice #069), and October (Invoice #70). McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### **VII. Land Use Committee Report**

Board liaison Frazell stated that he had nothing to report because they didn't meet in November. He noted the next meeting of the LUC will take place on December 1st, and they'll be seeking a new Chair because Schmid is spending a lot of time on the Public Safety Task Force right now. Hantge stated there are currently two agenda items for that meeting: an update from AECOM regarding 800 Washington Avenue South; and an update from ESG regarding the Sherman Associates project at Washington and Portland Avenues.

#### **VIII. Civic Engagement Report**

Committee Chair Quentin Misiag reported on the following:

- **Winter Festival at Gold Medal Park** during the second weekend in February. He's hoping to create a fun event to engage with downtown residents in a safe, socially distancing way. Activities could include sledding, snowshoeing, free hot chocolate, performance by the Mill City Choir, etc. More information to come.
- **Little Free Library for the Bark Park** has arrived and will be installed when the weather warms up a bit.
- **Holiday Fundraising Drives** within condo buildings for local charities. Examples of what his building the Ironclad is doing include a winter coat and canned food drive. The Encore and The Legacy are also doing something.

He also mentioned a few things that his hometown of Iowa City is doing to support business over winter due to the economic impact of the pandemic. He said he is disappointed with the City of Minneapolis' response to COVID with respect to businesses.

McCrea said that the Bridgewater is doing a fundraising campaign for People Serving People and Fair School.

## **IX. Public Safety Task Force**

Task Force Chair Tom Schmid reported on the following:

- Public hearings on the City's FY2021 Budget are coming up on December 2nd, and December 9th, and he encouraged Board members to submit letters advocating for the Mayor's police funding proposal. He noted McCrea will testify on behalf of the DMNA at the December 2nd meeting and will highlight a few stories she has heard from residents about their crime and safety experiences in the downtown community over the past 9 months. The City Council will vote on the final budget on December 9th.
  - Information on the Mayor's recommended 2021 Budget is available here: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/budget/2021-budget>.
  - Information on how to comment on the 2021 Budget is available here: <http://www2.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>.
- The open letter to downtown residents regarding the FY2021 Budget. Schmid thanked the Board for approving the letter outside of a regular Board meeting.
- The Transforming Public Safety survey is on the City's Website. Schmid encouraged Board members to submit responses via <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J86DD7Y>.
- The Jordan Area Community Council is hosting a Public Safety Forum on November 19. Hantge has requested the registration information / Zoom login information, and once she receives it, she will share it with the Board.
- The Public Safety Task Force would like to host some additional safety-themed forums. It is also working on a Safety Perception Survey they plan to distribute to residents via the HOA Advisory Group.



New Board member Andy Gittleman inquired whether the DMNA has taken a formal position on public safety. McCrea and Schmid noted the DMNA Board signed on to the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Guiding Principles for Police Reform and Public Safety ([https://www.mplsdowntown.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6.29\\_statement-on-public-safety-and-safety-principles2.pdf](https://www.mplsdowntown.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/6.29_statement-on-public-safety-and-safety-principles2.pdf)).

## **X. Strategic Planning Task Forces**

- A. Branding.** There was some discussion about changing the name to Marketing, but Chair Walsh prefers keeping it Branding. Then she reported she still has between 50 and 60 DMNA branded face masks available; she gave three dozen to Green Minneapolis to give out at the Tree Census event back in October. Responding to Rajtar's inquiry about whether we should order more, Walsh said the Board can reevaluate it in 2021, pending what happens with the COVID vaccine.

Walsh also introduced a new project idea: an historic building signage project modeled after one created by the North Loop Neighborhood Association. She received contact information for Mike Binkley who oversees the North Loop project from Hantge; he's willing to talk with the DMNA about how they developed and financed their project. The North Star Blanket Building and the Stone Arch Lofts were identified as two potential buildings the DMNA could recognize with historic signage. There are at least 8 to 10 other buildings in the Mill District alone, plus more scattered throughout the downtown community the DMNA could recognize. McCrea suggested Walsh present the idea to the Civic Engagement Committee because they have also discussed neighborhood signage projects. The Board gave Walsh their blessing to talk with Binkley and report back.

For more information on the North Loop historic building signage project, please visit <https://northloop.org/eight-historic-buildings-get-new-signs-nlna/>.

- B. HOA Advisory Group.** Rice reported they met on Thursday, October 22nd. They had a great conversation with MPD First Precinct Inspector Billy Peterson, and they also talked with Tom Schmid and Merv Moorhead from the Public Safety Task Force regarding a safety perception survey that is in the works. The HOA Advisory Group meets again on Thursday, November 19th, at which they'll hear an update on the survey from Schmid and Moorhead, and Quentin Misiag will provide an update from the Civic Engagement Committee.
- C. Outreach and Collaboration.** Frazell stated that at this time, he and Erickson are recommending the Board disband this task force. The existing committees are fulfilling their work at this time. The Board can revisit the need for this task force in the future if necessary.

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

- A. 2020 Annual Meeting Debriefing.** McCrea thanked the Board and Hantge for the help in the planning and implementing, and Hantge and Max Erickson for the technical work they did behind the scenes. McCrea noted there were over 350 people registered, and for the first time hosting a virtual annual meeting, it went relatively smoothly. She suggested that if the DMNA hosts another virtual annual meeting in the future, there should be specific ground rules



regarding the use of the Chat Box because there was a lot of inappropriate dialogue in it during the election process.

- B. 2021 Board Strategic Planning Session.** Hantge will send out a Doodle poll to find a date in December to meet. The purpose of the meeting is to review 2020 goals and priorities and determine what should carry forward into 2021 and discuss if there are any new goals or priorities for 2021. Hantge will also review the current financial situation.
- C. Neighborhoods 2020 Update.** Rock Hantge stated that at this point in time, neighborhoods understand that they will receive half of their current 2020 CPP allocation for the period January 1, 2021-June 30, 2021. This amounts to approximately \$52,000 for the DMNA. The allocation for the second half of the year will come from the new Neighborhoods 2020 program, the amount of which is unknown at this time. Neighborhoods will not know what this amount is until after the City Council approves the FY2021 budget on December 9th. The best guess is the amount will be a base funding of \$10,000 for Downtown East and Downtown West, plus the DMNA will be eligible to apply for grant dollars related to equity engagement work.
- D. Committee Staffing discussion.** The Board tabled this item for discussion during the Strategic Planning session in order to review the current financial situation and full scope of needs and priorities.

**XII. Next Board Meeting**

Monday, December 21, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

**XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business,

*Gittleman moved and Sweet 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