

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021

Via Zoom

(https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/OGK_iRq-sLF6iarPyCmJNa6GVQWAF2Lar5ccol76jV9cr8plRgetMqxJnXXE4H7d.j542brOrOGk_fLQu)

I. Call to Order and Introductions

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
Andrew Gittleman
Tomek Rajtar
Laurie Rice
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Board Member Joe Tamburino was absent.

Staff member Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Robin Baumgartner, Principal Financial Group
Steve Cramer, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Susan Field, Humboldt Lofts, Public Safety Task Force
Jacob Gale, People Serving People
Meghan Gustafson, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Douglas Pearson, Centre Village
Elizabeth Schaffer, candidate for the MPRB
Dustin Sprouse, River Towers, DMNA HOA Advisory Group
John Turnipseed, MAD DADS

II. Community Vote on Plan Modifications

McCrea explained the reason and process for the requisite community vote on a plan modification to an approved Neighborhood Action Plan (<https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2021-00521>). And because the DMNA wishes to fund the Twin Cities Hospitality and Event Workers' Relief Program (<https://www.thedmna.org/covid-19-resources/twin-cities-hospitality-relief-program/>) and Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District's 2021 Safety Plan, specifically the Social Worker Outreach Strategy (<https://www.thedmna.org/did-launches-2021-safety-plan/>), two projects beyond the typical scope of what it has funded in the past such as music at the Mill City Farmers Market (<https://millcityfarmersmarket.org/music/>) and the Greening Lab (<https://www.greenminneapolis.org/projects/greening-lab/>), monies from the Neighborhood Priorities Plan Reserve Fund must be moved to the Neighborhoods Respond to COVID. McCrea explained anyone who lives, works, or owns property in Downtown East or West (<https://www.thedmna.org/dmna-neighborhoods/>) is eligible to vote.

McCrea moved and Walsh seconded a motion to move \$44,000 from the NPP Reserve Fund to the Neighborhoods Respond to COVID for the Twin Cities Hospitality Worker Relief Program. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

McCrea moved and Rice seconded a motion to move \$60,000 from the NPP Reserve Fund to the Neighborhoods Respond to COVID for the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District's 2021 Safety Plan for the Social Worker Outreach Strategy. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Consideration of Agenda

There being no changes or amendments, McCrea approved the agenda as submitted.

IV. Men Against Destruction | Defending Against Drugs and Social Disorder

Because McCrea has been impressed with how MAD DADS has been operating in the Minneapolis CBD, she invited John Turnipseed to come and introduce himself and asked whether they had any funding needs.

Turnipseed advised they are part of a national organization and a few months ago the then president of the Minneapolis chapter (VJ Smith) resigned. Because Turnipseed has been on the MAD DADS Minneapolis board since its inception in 1998, he's on loan from Urban Ventures (<https://urbanventures.org/our-people>) for as long as it takes to hire another president.

Turnipseed then gave an overview of their programs, i.e., street patrol and de-escalation, working primarily with young and old African American males (80%), especially those who are gang-related or recently released from prison. Under the direction of Shane Zahn, Director of Safety Initiatives at the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, they patrol Mondays through Fridays in groups of threes primarily on Nicollet Avenue without mace or weapons to spot trouble and intervene. During the last 3 months they've had 450 interventions, not all were bad but some included directing people to social services (where to get into treatment) and offering social services (passing out pamphlets about COVID, masks, and hand sanitizers).

This is their 2nd year with the DID which has been a good partnership and have contracts with the House of Charity and the Salvation Army to help keep the shelters safe. They go wherever they're invited and try to help the City whenever they can. As far as needs, Turnipseed said they could use more staff, especially an administrative assistant; there are only 6 MAD DADS.

Steve Cramer, President and CEO of Minneapolis Downtown Council, advised MAD DADS is an integral part of the livability outreach and street engagement strategy of DID's 2021 Safety Plan (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DID-SafetyPlanVisual.pdf>) that also involves YouthLink (<https://www.youthlinkmn.org/>), and now a dedicated social worker who will work with DID's Livability Team that the DMNA approved funding for at its March 15th Board meeting. Cramer monitors the communications network throughout the day and MAD DADS receives constant requests for assistance; they're an invaluable resource to deescalate and handle issues the police aren't best suited for or available to handle. Whatever they can do to keep our downtown livable and inviting, they'll need the expertise and resource that MAD DADS represents along with other things, so if the DMNA is interested in investing, they have an existing relationship and it would be easy to extend our funding through DID. Turnipseed stated he prefers going through DID because of the existing structure and relationship.

During Q&A, Walsh asked how MAD DADS are selected – through interactions on the street, word of mouth, and compensated – through the contracts they have (had one with the MPD, Brooklyn Center Police Department, MPRB but lost a few due to a scandal (<https://www.fox9.com/news/mad-dads-leader-accused-of-harassment>)).

For more information, visit <http://minneapolismaddads.org/> or their Facebook page that's currently being updated at <https://www.facebook.com/MinneapolisMadDads/>.

V. **Pianos on Parade Project**

Meghan Gustafson, Director of Events & Programs at Minneapolis Downtown Council (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/meghan-gustafson-gingerich-b239811/>), noted she came before the DMNA last year seeking support for their POP program (reference the February 24, 2020 Board minutes) which the DMNA generously supported but due to the pandemic the 2020 program was put on pause. Because the program is returning this year, she's back to give an update (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/pianos/>).

DMNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock Hantge reminded the Board they approved a \$10,000 contribution in 2020 but she did not send a payment because POP was cancelled. Because they plan to move forward with the program this year, she'll send a payment using last year's contribution.

VI. **People Serving People Parking Lot Improvement Project**

Jacob Gale, Senior Director of Operations (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacob-gale-a92846a1/>), first gave a brief overview of their organization. Founded in 1982, the organization initially served single men with chronic alcoholic and chemical dependency problems, but over the years they shifted their focus to helping homeless and at-risk children and their families manage crisis situations and build a strong foundation for their long-term success (<https://www.peopleservingpeople.org/about/>). They're the largest and most comprehensive emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota and a dedicated leader in homelessness prevention.

PSP has occupied its current 10-story building at 614 South 3rd Street since 2002. While Gale was in the process of reviewing their 10-year capital plan, he came across DMNA minutes from the late 1990s indicating it was one of the early supporters of PSP locating here, so the DMNA is an important part of PSP's story. In subsequent years, PSP has worked with the DMNA on other projects including a security camera project with American Trio Lofts which has been impactful for local public safety in this corner of downtown and they're grateful.

They typically serve over 350 people a night which translates to over 110 families in their 99-room emergency shelter, and the average length of stay in 2019 was 30 days. The pandemic has significantly changed the way they operate and census; the average length of stay in 2020 was upwards of 60 or 70 days because, among other things, it's been too much harder for families to be able to resolve their housing crisis.

Gale then provided information on the proposed parking lot reconstruction project (reference the narrative and budget documents included in the March 15th Board package), the purpose for which is to make the parking lot safer for pedestrians, particularly for families with children waiting for the school bus. After Gale responded to questions, and Hantge and Walsh clarified the DMNA's financial position,

Erickson moved and Rajtar seconded a motion to support a \$25,000 contribution to People Serving People for the Parking Lot Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed with McCrea opposing.

VII. **Consent Agenda**

Walsh moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the March 2021 meeting minutes; F2021 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending March 31, 2021; the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for March (Invoice #75); 2020 IRS Form 990; and 2020 MN Charitable Organization Annual Report. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

VIII. Land Use Committee Report

Committee Chair Frazell reported on the following items presented at the April 6th LUC meeting:

- A. Gay 90s Temporary Sidewalk Café License.** Dennis Johnson from Chestnut Cambronne, P.A. presented an application for a sidewalk café license. Due to the reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue (<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/>), they need to temporarily relocate their sidewalk café on 4th Street to ensure it doesn't impede traffic. Once reconstruction is completed, it will return to Hennepin Avenue. The LUC was assured they have a good security system in place.

The LUC recommended providing a Letter of Support.

- B. Hark! Café Sidewalk License Application.** Although the owner of the Hark! Café (<http://millcitytimes.com/news/small-business-spotlight-katherine-and-lisa-co-owners-hark-c.html>) was unable to attend, she submitted the application information for a sidewalk café license.

The LUC recommended providing a Letter of Support.

- C. 2021 Scooter Share Program.** Danielle Elkins, Mobility Manager at the City (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielkins/>), gave an overview of the 2020 Scooter Share Program as well as their plans and expectations for the 2021 program. Then she along with Jacob Brown, Operations Analyst (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacob-brown-mba-45880124/>), and Ward 3 Council Member Steve Fletcher (<https://www.minneapolis.gov/government/city-council/ward-3/>) responded to questions related to safety issues (riding on sidewalks, speeding, etc.), signage, rider education, use of geofencing, response to 311.

The City plans to license up to 2,500 scooters, about 45% of which for downtown and the remaining spread throughout other neighborhoods. With a real focus on equity, the City wants the scooter companies to make a commitment to parts of the city previously underserved which use them primarily for commuting and getting to work. The report was mixed in terms of satisfaction; City staff admitted it has a lot of expectations but not a lot of resources, so they look to the scooter companies to follow through on their obligations. There will be more mobility hubs and signage/directions on when and where to ride, and informational tents at special community events such as Open Streets (<https://www.openstreetsmpls.org/>).

Scooters will operate between 4 a.m. and midnight, and in terms of the use of geofencing to keep them off the sidewalks and slow them down – a speed limit zone on the Stone Arch Bridge and no ride zone around Gold Medal Park have been in since 2018, they're monitoring the Chicago Avenue Mall at the MCFM to assess whether it's needed again. The best answer given if having problems is to call 311.

Everyone committed to keeping an eye on everything and working together. The DMNA is looking at a possible increase in signage around the area. The City will be granting the licenses in late April/early May, and the successful scooter companies were asked to present at the next LUC meeting on May 4th.

- D. 314 1st Avenue North.** Matthew Kruntorad and Kristilyn Vercruyse from MSR Design (<https://msrdesign.com/team/>) presented a Certificate of Appropriateness application to allow for the following additions on the Kingman Building, a contributing building in the historic Warehouse District: a guardrail along the roof parapet; roof trellises; rooftop furnishings; an internal stair doghouse at the roof; and to make the existing fire escape usable. The COA was accepted by the HPC in 2018 and supported by the DMNA but the additions were never carried out. Since they're ready

to move forward, they need to go through the process again because the COA expired.

The LUC recommended providing a Letter of Support.

Frazell moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the above three Letters of Support. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

The next meeting of the LUC will take place on Tuesday, May 4th.

IX. Civic Engagement Committee Report

Committee Chair Max Erickson reported on the following two subcommittees that last met on April 8th:

- A. National Night Out.** This subcommittee is led by Melanie Hess. They are seeking approval on a survey (sent in advance to the Board) to distribute to residents and business owners to get input on what the community would like to see at a National Night Out event and how they might support it. The subcommittee believes the DMNA can host a COVID-friendly event on Tuesday, August 3rd (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/nno/>).

After Erickson called for a vote to approve the National Night Out Survey, it was unanimously approved.

- B. Neighborhood Identification Signage.** This subcommittee is led by Wendy Rubinyi who is pushing forward on an aggressive timetable to get appropriate signage that demarcates the two official neighborhoods of DMNA, Downtown East and Downtown West, as well as smaller areas within the DMNA boundary (e.g., Mill District potentially along 2nd Street and Washington Avenue) that may be demarcated. Erickson will bring their proposal for approval at a later date.

Gittleman asked for suggestions on how to education the community about Ranked Choice Voting (<https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/ranked-choice-voting/>) and the proposed Charter Amendments (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/charter-commission/current-proposals/>) which the HOA Advisory Group wanted to discuss but was referred to this Committee by McCrea. He would also like to suggest having some educational events that are not candidate driven.

Erickson said this was discussed at their April 8th meeting, and they will be conducting forums for candidates running for Mayor, City Council, Board of Estimate & Taxation, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Once the candidate filing period has expired for the November 2, 2021 Municipal Election (August 10th), they'll assess how many candidates there are in each category and assess how best to move forward. As the CEC of the DMNA, this is one of the ways they can help residents assess what public officials are running for that will represent their needs.

Frazell advised he's been regularly participating in the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/>) discussion of neighborhood associations and at the last one he specifically asked about the Charter Amendments and was told they would be developing some educational materials that neighborhood associations could use. Because the deadline for candidate filings is coming up, we may want to do a forum on Ranked Choice Voting and the proposed Charter Amendments earlier and to get someone from the City Clerk's Office (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/clerk/>) for an objective voice.

The next meeting of this committee will take place on Thursday, May 13th.

I. Public Safety Task Force

In Joe Tamburino's absence, McCrea advised at the March 15th DMNA Board meeting the PSFA asked to delay for 30 days deciding how it would move forward to give them the opportunity to assess the two alternatives. To date, she has not received any recommendations from the PSTF.

Frazell who originated the two alternatives, i.e., continue the PSTF under new leadership or discontinue but either establish a new committee or the work be absorbed by the Board, summarized what led up to the flashpoint culminating in the resignation of several PSTF members.

Frazell then offered his reflections on what has happened since the Board last met, i.e.:

- Anxiety and trauma surrounding Chauvin trial;
- Strong feelings in metro region about Operation Safety Net (<https://safetynet.mn.gov/Pages/default.aspx>) and the controversy over it shown at the April 16th City Council meeting (<https://www.minneapolis.gov/government/meetings/city-council-tv/>);
- Tragic killing of another black man Daunte Wright (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killing_of_Daunte_Wright);
- PSTF member Merv Moorhead announced his candidacy for City Council Ward 3 (<https://mervforward3.com/>);
- Operation Safety Now, a grassroots movement of concerned residents, has endorsed City Council candidates (<https://www.startribune.com/these-minneapolis-city-council-candidates-can-restore-our-city-to-sanity/600044840/>); and
- Most importantly the recording of the March 24th PSTF meeting (<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mcMoFRHvGW74MqFN3cruyFuh8sRnq9M-Hs7yvVj9aS-Xqd48r5mhGlaR-y5FHYlr.LQhjATf7U-WNMAvr>). It's an excellent representation of what the PSTF was thinking. Frazell feels PSTF members remain primarily interested in continuing to communicate and perhaps amplify their messaging derived from the results of the survey (<https://www.thedmna.org/dmna-public-safety-task-force-releases-results-from-recent-safety-perception-survey/>).

Because Frazell has not received a response to the alternatives proposed or been advised that one is forthcoming that is in accordance with the five adopted guiding principles, he recommended the DMNA Board retain control of any positions taken or messaging in the name of the organization. They will keep the public educated about decisions that are before the community and all opportunities to be involved in upcoming discussions. If the DMNA determines to take positions on behalf of the downtown residents, specifically on charter amendments or public safety strategies, it will need to hear from a variety of downtown voices reflective of other perspectives.

Other Board members then provided their input, after which,

Rajtar moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to give the PSTF up to the next Board meeting on June 21, 2021 the opportunity to submit a written proposal on how to move forward addressing each of the five adopted guiding principles. The motion passed with Erickson and McCrea opposing.

X. Strategic Planning Task Forces

A. Branding

Walsh provided an update on the following projects:

- **Historic signage.** This project is about historic signs on buildings and they've identified 15 buildings; the goal is to do all within the Mill District for the first year. They're busy writing the histories, seeking permission from building owners, and acquiring photos and graphics. They meet again on Thursday, April 22nd, and welcome other volunteers to join the committee.
- **Branded spatulas.** They're seeking support from the Board to purchase 500 DMNA branded silicone spatulas to give away at the June 12th and September 18th Mill City Farmers Markets. Walsh also has some DMNA branded masks and water bottles left that could be distributed.

McCrea moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to provide up to \$1,400 for the purchase of DMNA branded spatulas to giveaway at the June 12th and September 18th Mill City Farmers Markets. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Scooter signage.** The idea to purchase "no scooter riding" signage came out of the discussion at the April 6th LUC meeting. City staff declined to do so because they do not have the funds or the time to install signage similar to what was installed last year. The signage seemed to be effective at keeping scooter riders off the sidewalks. Walsh is seeking support from the Board to purchase "no scooter riding signage" if the City will allow it, and to place the DMNA logo on them.

Walsh moved and Rice seconded a motion to provide up to \$2,000 for the purchase of scooter signage. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

- B. HOA Advisory Group.** Rice reported they met on April 15th, at which they received a safety update from 1st Precinct Inspector Bill Peterson (<https://www.minneapolis.gov/government/departments/police/police-chief-administration/>). Although the agenda and participants were light, it was a good meeting.

Within the last month, three people have indicated an interest in chairing so they'll develop a mechanism for voting by the next meeting on Thursday, June 17th.

XI. New / Old / Other Business

A. Approval of Conflict of Interest Policy

Frazell provided a brief summary of how we got to the final draft of the policy. After having conversations with Erickson and Hantge, he understands the need for Board members to disclose more than purely financial conflicts.

Frazell moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the revised Conflict of Interest Policy. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of the Code of Conduct Policy

Hantge explained the changes made were based on conversations that took place at last month's Board workshop held just prior to the Board meeting as well as reformatting by Walsh.

Walsh moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the new Code of Conduct Policy. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

C. Neighborhoods 2020 Update

Hantge reported that Neighborhood & Community Relations staff presented to the Committee of the

Whole a recommendation to extend neighborhood organizations' 2021 Community Participation Program contracts to December 31, 2021, as opposed to terminating on June 30, 2021 (<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/COW/2348>). This new date will coincide with the end of the Neighborhood Priorities Plan Program. Any funds remaining in the CPP or NPP programs at the conclusion of 2021 will rollover into the Equitable Engagement Fund.

Hantge advised MAD DADS is an example of a program that could potentially fit within EEF, also Greening Lab and MCFM. Based on a conversation with Cramer about what they pay MAD DADS for Monday through Friday work, the DMNA could potentially provide additional dollars for the expansion of their hours; she'll work with them to come up with a plan to present at a later meeting.

XII. Next Board Meeting

Monday, May 17th at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business,

Sweet moved and Walsh seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2021

Chair

Secretary