

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2021 *Via Zoom*

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Pam McCrea called the Board meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Max Erickson
Kevin Frazell, Vice Chair
Andrew Gittleman
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:

Erin Benoit, Minneapolis Assessor's Office	Elizabeth Pohlman, Legacy Condominiums
Jerry Croxdale, Marcy Holmes neighborhood	Mark Rausch, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Larry Dole, Legacy Condominiums	Wendy Rubinyi, Bridgewater Lofts
Susan Field, Humboldt Lofts, DMNA PSTF	Paul St. Martin, RiverWest Condominiums
Steve Fletcher, City Council Ward 3	Elizabeth Schaffer, MPRB candidate
Jacob Halsne, Midwest Skateboard Alliance	Dustin Sprouse, River Towers, DMNA HOA
Melanie Hess, DMNA National Night Out	Ryan Spence, Ryan Spence Coaching
Rebecca Malmquist, Minneapolis Assessor's Office	Adam Swart, Minneapolis Assessor's Office
Brian Messer, Minneapolis Assessor's Office	Tim Ulvin, Minneapolis Assessor's Office
Merv Moorhead, Ward 3 City Council candidate	Amanda Wigen, Friends of the Falls
Douglas Pearson, Centre Village	

II. Consideration of Agenda

After Frazell added under the Civic Engagement Committee Report an update on discussions with the North Loop Neighborhood Association about potential joint community forums on municipal election-related topics, and McCrea added her Chair's Report next in line,

Erickson moved and Frazell seconded a motion to approve the agenda as amended. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. Chair's Report

First, McCrea explained she asked Board members to introduce themselves because she couldn't be prouder of the group of people we have before us; they were elected by us and they've represented us extremely well, e.g., over the last year there have been several committees and subcommittees

generated to help carry out the tons of work involved with fulfilling the DMNA's mission. She'll take the compliment of a former Board member who said "I didn't know you could do all you're doing with the DMNA; we were on the Board for several years and didn't know this could happen" and give it to us all who have done magnificent work.

Second, she noted this is probably our last Zoom meeting, so she's excited about seeing each other in person soon.

Third, she noted that First Precinct Inspector Bill Peterson came to their HOA meeting and it was promising: of the 39 homicides in Minneapolis, the DMNA area owns five, two of which are recent and the perpetrators were caught because MAD DADS knew their identities enabling the MPD to arrest them, so McCrea wanted to convey that MAD DADS is doing good work and she appreciates the work the DMNA did in reviewing their proposal and increasing their budget.

Peterson also spoke in great length about crime happening along the riverfront in condominiums, e.g., sneaking into garages, purse snatching, car thefts. Citywide robberies are up but are down in downtown.

IV. Annual Assessor Property Review | 2021 Quintile Revaluation

Rebecca Malmquist, City Assessor for the City of Minneapolis, thanked the DMNA for allowing her team time to share details about the upcoming Quintile Revaluation in Downtown East and Downtown West, then gave an overview of her background (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-malmquist/>). She noted the assessing profession is not one that anyone sets out to pursue nor is there a formal career path or college degree that directly correlates with their work, which is one of the reasons why she thinks so few property owners understand how they do their work, and why they love the opportunity to share their work with us. Then team members who joined her on the call introduced themselves:

- Erin Benoit, Residential Assessor II (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/erinbenoit/>)
- Adam Swart, Residential Assessor II
- Brian Messer, Appraisal Supervisor (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brian-messer-778748115/>)
- Tim Ulvin, Appraisal Supervisor (<https://www.zoominfo.com/p/Timothy-Ulvin/-2036518928>)

Using a slide presentation (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Quintile-Revaluation-6-21-2021.pdf>), Malmquist shared some Assessor's humor depicting the image of one's home as seen through the lens of the homeowner, buyer, lender, and Assessor for property tax purposes. She explained what they do and how they do it for all 130,000 parcels in Minneapolis every year. She noted property classification is important because classification rates are the second piece in the tax calculation puzzle. Because Minnesota has about 40 classifications, more than any other state, makes it one of the most complex property tax systems, and with more than 80 statutes that guide their work it's an understatement to say there is a whole lot of rules in their assessing world.

Because all their work cannot be done in one day, they perform their same main tasks annually on a prescribed schedule (reference the assessment cycle), i.e.:

- January 2nd is the assessment date for every property including the land and structures thereon;

- In spring notices are mailed out kicking off the appeals season (if property owners disagree with or have questions about the value, they work with the appraiser assigned to the neighborhood);
- In summer, the Quintile Revaluation is conducted;
- In fall all permanent work that's taken place over the last year is reviewed to account for the value; and
- The annual assessment is set and the cycle begins over again.

Next, Malmquist explained the Quintile Revaluation process within the assessment cycle requires an in-person inspection; however, due to COVID-19 protocol is different and this year they can use computer assisted office reviews as an alternative. In a typical Quintile Revaluation, staff will send out notifications, walk through neighborhood in teams, knock on doors, leave door tags, and verify as much of the property record as possible. In the case of condominiums, staff will set up a team at the property complex to schedule appointments. Downtown East and Downtown West falls within the 2021 Quintile Revaluation schedule. Please visit <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/property-info/market-values/annual-assessor-property-review/> to complete the 2021 Property Questionnaire.

V. **Minneapolis 2021 Aquatennial Update**

Mark Rausch, Director of Operations at the Minneapolis Downtown Council (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/markrausch1/>), explained this is the official civic celebration for Minneapolis and since it occurs in our backyard, he wanted to reach out to us and let us know what's happening this year. There are the two flagship events that bookend the weekend – CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade on Wednesday, July 21st (<https://www.aquatennial.com/torchlightparade/>), and Target Fireworks on Saturday, July 24th (<https://www.aquatennial.com/fireworks/>). In this year of reopening, they are looking to lessen the impact they'll have on community resources, so they aren't having the Torchlight 5K Run because of the commitment it takes to close all the roadways from the Convention Center to Boon Island. There are a lot of things we've come to love that'll be back (live music, City of Lakes Market, food trucks, craft brews and beverages), while others will be taking the year off in deference to the impact on community resources and youngest Minnesotan's not being eligible for vaccines.

The timelines impacting West River Road from 11th Avenue South to 4th Avenue North are the same as in 2019; he'll provide a map and an access pass to residents. For more information, visit <https://www.aquatennial.com/>.

VI. **Downtown Breakroom Skate Park Update**

Jacob Halsne, Designer at Damon Faber (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jacob-halsne-682b25172/>) and Vice Chair of the Midwest Skateboard Alliance (<https://www.midwestskateboard.com/about>), came to share the progress they've made recently on this project. He noted it was formerly known as the Skyway Commons Pocket Park (<https://friendsoftheskywaycommons.weebly.com/vision.html> [also reference <http://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Revised-Draft-DMNA-Board-Minutes-05-25-2017.pdf>]). MSA recently received its 501(c)(3) status and they're focused on elevating skateboarding's role within a progressive urban environment and community planning. They're currently working on two skate parks: the Downtown Breakroom in Minneapolis (<https://www.midwestskateboard.com/downtown-breakroom>), and the Eastside Skatepark in St. Paul (<https://www.midwestskateboard.com/eastside>).

They plan to fund and build a multi-use pocket park under the Minneapolis skyway that connects Ramps B and C on the 330' x 45' vacant lot owned by MnDOT located at 2nd Avenue North and North 4th Street in the Downtown West neighborhood. Halsne noted its position is within the Downtown Service Area Master Plan approved in 2017 [which became Pathways to Places and is now within the purview of Long Range Planning (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/cped/long-range-planning/>)], and approval included a skate park, meeting and eating spaces, art installations, rain gardens, stormwater infrastructure and enhanced lighting. Some of MSA's larger goals include:

- Encourage more foot-traffic in the area to activate the space, and thereby increase public safety.
- Foster displays of public art and citizen athleticism.
- Contribute to downtown innovations in green infrastructure with the addition of rain gardens, shade trees, and progressive stormwater management.
- Create a space that would serve as a backyard for at-risk downtown youth.
- Create a top tier skatepark that will fuel physical activity for youths and adults of all ages and attract visitors that will patronize local restaurants and businesses.

Halsne stated they've been having open stakeholder meetings with the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, MnDOT, and the MPRB throughout this year on the 2nd Wednesday of each month to help advance their vision for the vacant property; the DMNA is welcome to attend.

And pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between MSA and the MPRB (http://minneapolisparksmn.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?ID=3692&highlightTerms=skateboarding&Print=Yes), MSA is leading the fundraising and design advancement, and the MPRB is negotiating with MnDOT to obtain a lease for use of the land. Once they have a refined set of plans, they'll be able to move forward with the lease agreement and the City approval process.

The total estimated cost of \$537,220 is based on the previous concept design by Damon Faber which includes site design and construction. They've been scoping out various grant, but nearly all require matching grants so they'll need seed money to go after the grants and spur other contributions. They've planned a fundraising event for September 18th at Modist Brewing, a collaboration between Modist Brewing, Pizza Lucé, and Twin Cities Drum Collective (<https://www.facebook.com/events/modist-brewing-company/bash-for-the-breakroom/53175077978901/>) to hopefully raise \$15,000. Halsne then requested \$10,000 to fund project design services.

McCrea thanked Halsne for his presentation and advised the Board has enjoyed watching this project evolve and wants it to be successful as it will be providing positive activities that will benefit the community, but because the Board will be having discussions about its future finances to determine in which direction it wants to go, it took no action on this financial request.

The MSA presentation can be found at <https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2021-06-21-MSA-Status-Report-DMNA-Meeting.pdf>.

VII. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Steve Fletcher reported on the following:

- Mayor Frey’s proposal for the City’s American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars (<https://stories.opengov.com/minneapolismn/published/DB-GI-eso>). They’ll be looking at it through the lens of what investments merits this type of expedited process. There hasn’t been a ton of opportunity to get community feedback, so if you have specific thoughts, now is a good time to be in touch with his office.
- On Thursday, June 24th, there’ll be a Lock and Dam Project and A Proposal for Partnership with the Four Dakota Tribes discussion with Robert Lilligren, President of Native American Community Development Institute (<https://www.nacdi.org/staff-and-board>), and Mark Andrew, President of Friends of the Falls (<https://thefalls.org/friends-of-the-falls/>), at Water Works Park (https://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/MPLS-2e4636a?wgt_ref=MPLS_WIDGET_71). The City is still on track to receive the space from USACE, and over the course of talking about how to program it, people have gotten interested in the space’s history as a sacred site for the Dakota Tribes, so there’s an opportunity to partner with them and create something special that is compatible with what’s happening at Water Works.
- He’s just had a good meeting with Meet Minneapolis and they’re about 6 weeks away from their first big convention coming in August, the kind of official return to tourism and visitors coming in big numbers (<https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/>). Reopening is starting to happen and they’re seeing positive signs in terms of bookings for fall of this year and mostly into 2022.

Thereafter, he responded to several questions from the Board, e.g., he’s unaware of a proposed ordinance to impound street racers’ cars but he’ll investigate it and get back to us; it’s been shifting but they’ve been getting clarification on for what they can use the ARP funds; Danielle Elkins is keeping him in the loop on what actions Public Works is proposing related to 2021 Scooter Share Program complaints submitted to 311.

VIII. Friends of The Falls Update

Amanda Wigen, Communications Director at Friends of The Falls (<https://thefalls.org/friends-of-the-falls/>), returned to give an update on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ disposition study of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. She last presented to the DMNA on March 15th.

Wigen clarified in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that passed on December 27, 2020 (<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/asce-legislative-victory-passage-of-wrda-2020/>) directing USACE to convey a portion of the land surrounding the Lock to the City, the land CM Fletcher referred to earlier is the parking lot and paths surrounding the concrete structure with the water gates. Friends continues to work with the City to develop a formal relationship between its work and community engagement at the City, and with USACE to ensure Friends’ work is advanced in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, USACE is continuing to move on its disposition study; a draft report was issued in January (<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/PN/Article/2446042/public-notice-upper-st-anthony-falls-lock-and-dam-disposition-study-draft-report/>) recommending complete disposal of the project. Since Friends was against that recommendation and felt USACE should continue to own and maintain it going forward in partnership with the City or the tribal entities who will operate the adjacent land as public space, they

came to the DMNA for a Letter of Support for their position. There were 110 comments received in response to the draft disposition study, 100 of which were opposed to full disposition and the others were opposed to partial disposition. There were also over 600 signatures on Friends' sign-on letter. USACE is integrating the comments into the final disposition study which will be released in late 2021.

As part of Friends' work in determining how the Lock will be used for the public going forward, they are spearheading a partnership with the tribal governments through a contract with the Native American Community Development Institute (<https://www.nacdi.org/>) to guide the engagement process and create guiding principles for their work (<https://thefalls.org/2020/07/27/friends-of-the-falls-and-nacdi-launch-community-engagement-for-the-falls-initiative-convene-native-advisory-council/>).

And to open up the engagement process to increase diverse public participation, Wigen then discussed how best to engage the riverfront community over the course of the next 12-18 months. They intend to reach out to the St. Anthony Falls Alliance (representing the North Loop Neighborhood Association, Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association, Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association, Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association and St. Anthony West Neighborhood Association) and hope the DMNA will be a strong partner in leading that conversation; Cedar-Riverside Community Council (<https://www.crcouncil.org/>) which has expressed interest; and Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization (<https://wcno.org/>) which is well versed in what's going on at the Upper Harbor. The strategy is to co-host a series of events, both in person and virtual, to connect with the respective constituents.

Then Wigen presented a request to collaborate with the DMNA on an application to the City's new Neighborhoods 2020 Partnership Engagement Fund (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/neighborhood-programs/partnership-fund/>) to secure dollars to support outreach and engagement activities related to the disposition of the Lock and Dam. The purpose of the PEF is to:

- Support collaboration and partnerships between community-based organizations (CBOs) and neighborhood organizations to increase diverse public participation through project development and implementation;
- Engage historically underrepresented residents meaningfully and effectively on policies and programs that impact them and in decision-making with a focus on furthering equity; and
- Further the City's goals as stated in the Strategic Racial Equity Action Plan and Minneapolis 2040.

Community-based organizations must partner with recognized neighborhood organizations in order to access the funds. Applications are due July 1st and will range in size from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

Wigen noted that there would be a stipend available to the partner neighborhood organization to help cover administrative and overhead costs.

After some questions and discussion,

Frazell moved and Rice seconded a motion to support the Friends of the Falls' application to the Neighborhoods 2020 Partnership Engagement Fund. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

To review the Friends of the Falls' presentation, visit <https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Friends-of-the-Falls-presentation-2021-06-21-DMNA-Partnership-Funding.pdf>.

IX. Consent Agenda

After Walsh advised she reviewed the May financials and everything was in order,

Rice moved and Erickson seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the May 17th Board meeting minutes; F2021 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending May 31, 2021; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for May (Invoice #077). McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

X. Land Use Committee Report

Committee Chair Frazell reported on the following items presented at the June 1st LUC meeting:

A. USAF Lock & Dam Disposition Study Group. Hantge had reached out to him in May to see if he would be willing to participate in the first meeting of this group which was convened by USACE. He attended the first meeting on June 1st, which Amanda Wigen was a part of, and based on the discussion at that meeting, he thought there might be a better candidate who could represent the DMNA, i.e., Paul St. Martin, a friend of his and a civil engineer who lives at RiverWest with his wife Theresa. Their condo looks out on the Lock and Dam. Frazell reached out to him and to his delight St. Martin said yes. Although no one on the LUC was willing to sign up, they unanimously supported appointing St. Martin to the Disposition Study Group.

St. Martin then introduced himself and described his background (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Paul-St.-Martin-Resume-May-2021.pdf>) which involves a lot of experience working with USACE. He's very interested in being the DMNA representative on this group.

Frazell moved and Rice seconded a motion to appoint Paul St. Martin to the USAF Lock & Dam Disposition Study Group. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

Frazell stated St. Martin will provide updates to both the LUC and Board when required.

B. 2021 Scooter Share Program. LUC member Randy Manthey provided an extensive report on the findings and experiences to date on the SSP. He began by introducing himself and explaining what the LUC does (<https://www.thedmna.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/LUC-goals-11-13-18-1.pdf>). The SSP fits into LUC discussions because it's part of their focus on providing a safe, active, and welcoming downtown. Manthey then reviewed the most reported violations of the Scooter License Agreement.

- Not properly locking the scooter and Nice Ride bike at the end of a ride.
- Scooters not locked and abandoned/ "dumped" anywhere. Frequently on Private property.
- Scooters left on sidewalks obstructing the pedestrian sidewalk/path. Creating a barrier for people in wheelchairs. Obstructing the accessible way.
- Scooters locked to light poles, trees, fences, and handrails.

- Scooters blocking Accessible curb ramps. Obstructing the sidewalk clear zone.
- Scooters being ridden on sidewalks. Two people riding one scooter, Underage riding.
- The required "No Sidewalk Riding" (in minimum 48-point font) is not located on the platform of every Fleet Scooter.

Manthey also provided some suggestions on how the SSP can be improved:

- More education for riders on the proper use and proper parking of scooters and nice ride bikes.
- Penalties or incentives to riders to encourage the proper end-of-ride parking.
- Verify the speed reduction geofence on the Stone Arch Bridge. What is the speed reduction? Is it actually working?
- Geofence the parking garages on 2nd street to keep nuisance scooter riders out of the garages.
- Have fewer scooters placed by the fleet managers in the riverfront area to reduce the conflict with pedestrians in the same area?
- Require the fleet managers to lock all scooters that they drop off as required in the agreement. At the south end of Stone Arch Bridge, there are about twenty lined up every day and they are not locked and they are not in a designated motorized foot scooter parking zone.
- Have the fleet managers pick up all the abandoned, dumped, and not properly locked scooters by 6 am each day. Have the clean-up completed before most of the morning walkers are on the sidewalks.
- Geofence the sidewalk in front of the Guthrie and in the open area next to the Guthrie to reduce sidewalk riding in this zone of heavy pedestrian use. With Guthrie reopening there will be many more pedestrians in this area.
- Enforce inappropriate riding of scooters on the streets and sidewalks after 10 pm. This is a safety issue for all as somebody is going to get hit by a car.

Information on the City's Scooter Share Program is available at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/getting-around/scooters/>.

C. Chambers Hotel On-Sale Liquor License Application. Rick Hibbs from Bluebonnet Consulting (<https://www.zoominfo.com/p/Rick-Hibbs/5423193253>), and Peter Zellmer, General Manager at MCR Hotels (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-zellmer-37b99332/>), presented the application. Because of a change in management (<https://finance-commerce.com/2021/02/mcr-acquires-le-meridien-hotel/>), they are applying for a new liquor license. Guests should not see any changes to the hotel operations, and at this point, they anticipate no remodeling plans or changes to the service offerings. The hotel includes a basement restaurant with a full-service food and beverage menu, lobby bar, enclosed courtyard, rooftop bar with more limited food and beverage menus, and banquet facilities with a range of menus to meet the needs of guests. All the venues in the hotel will have full bar options, including beer, wine, and mixed drinks.

The LUC recommended providing at Letter of Support for the Chambers Hotel On-Sale Liquor License Application.

Rajat moved and Frazell seconded a motion to provide a Letter of Support for the Chambers Hotel On-Sale Liquor License Application. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

The next meeting of the LUC will take place on Tuesday, July 6th.

XI. Civic Engagement Committee Report

Committee Chair Max Erickson reported on the following two subcommittees that last met on May 13th:

- A. Neighborhood Identification Signage.** This subcommittee has completed work on the neighborhood metal signage. The signs have been ordered through Serigraphics Sign Systems (<https://www.serigraphicssign.com/>) and the expected completion is mid-July, after which they'll be delivered to Public Works for installation. City staff estimates the signs should be installed by October. This subcommittee is also continuing to work on the banner signs for the Mill District. The design has already been approved, but they're working to determine the number of banners to purchase based on the current funds available for this project, as well as a budget for ongoing costs such as permit fees and maintenance. Neighborhoods 2020 funds cannot be used to support these costs.
- B. National Night Out.** This subcommittee continues to work hard on the planning and logistics for this Tuesday, August 3rd event at The Commons (<https://www.thedmna.org/event/dmna-national-night-out-at-the-commons/>). They recently secured financial support from Wells Fargo and Kraus-Anderson, and are still seeking additional sponsorships to cover the costs of music entertainment and City Mischief Murals (<https://www.instagram.com/citymischief/?hl=en>), an all BIPOC artist collective creating community-based murals and events throughout the Twin Cities that promote a message of equality and social justice with a primary focus on leadership opportunities for youth and healing through art. The subcommittee is working with Hantge to prepare and submit their permits to the City and the MPRB soon.
- C. Municipal Election Joint Community Forums.** Frazell reminded everyone that there will likely be a number of proposed changes to the City Charter in the election this fall, and the DMNA was contacted by Charter4Change (<https://www.charter4changempls.org/>), a group generally aligned with the Charter Commission that educates people on the change, so he talked with Erickson about getting the CEC involved and partnering with the North Loop Neighborhood Association. As a consequence, on Friday morning, June 25th he, Erickson, Hantge, and Doug Pearson will have a Zoom call with NLNA President Diane Merrifield and NLNA Civic Engagement Chair Bri Sharkey-Smith to explore interests in hosting some joint community forums over the next few months on topics pertinent to the Municipal Election on November 2nd, i.e., candidates for Mayor, City Council, Board of Estimate & Taxation, and Park & Recreation Board (<https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>), and the proposed Charter Amendments (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/boards-and-commissions/charter-commission/current-proposals/>). These forums could take place in-person or via Zoom. They also reached out to EPNI and CLPC to participate on the Zoom call.

The next meeting of the CEC will take place on Thursday, July 8th.

XII. Strategic Planning Task Forces

- A. Branding.** Walsh provided an update on the following projects:

- **Historic Signage.** This committee continues to work on signs for 16 buildings in the Mill District. Walsh is in the process of reviewing and editing the historical narratives; Randy Manthey is working on the layout and design; and Hantge is working on how the historic signage will link to the DMNA website through the QR codes.
- **Mill City Farmers Market Day.** DMNA Day at the MCFM took place on Saturday, June 12th. Walsh thanked the Board members and Douglas Pearson who manned the booth in her absence, for greeting market attendees, and handing out the DMNA-branded facemasks and spatulas. There are still spatulas remaining that we can give away at the NNO event.

B. HOA Advisory Group. McCrea reported this group met on June 17th at which elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions took place. Then she introduced the newly elected Chair, Dustin Sprouse of River Towers who was at the instant meeting, and noted the newly elected Vice Chair is Troy Whelan who was not at the instant meeting. This group also heard a crime and safety update from Inspector Bill Peterson and Community Crime Prevention Specialist René Allen, and one of the crimes talked about was theft from vehicles. McCrea reminded people to lock their car doors and keep their valuables in the trunk and out of public viewing.

XIII. New / Old / Other Business

Discussion was held regarding whether to continue to include CM Fletcher’s Coffee with Steve meetings in the weekly eblast because two of his opponents in this fall’s election recently raised concerns that these meetings give him more access to voters and more opportunities to campaign. Hantge has had communications with NCR Attorney Jess Birken, NCR Specialist Steve Gallagher, as well as staff in Fletcher’s office who assured her that no campaigning can take place at these meetings. The meetings are only opportunities for Ward 3 residents to bring issues of concern or to learn about what’s happening in the neighborhood and at City Hall.

There was also some discussion about including information in the weekly eblast about meetings or gatherings organized by the opposing candidates for equitable coverage. However, since the opposing candidates’ meetings would clearly be for campaigning purposes, as a nonprofit organization the DMNA cannot give the appearance of advocating for any political candidate, and it would be difficult for staff to track and promote all the meetings of all the City Council candidates over the next 4 to 5 months. Thereafter, the Board concluded that at this point, Hantge can continue to include the dates for the Coffee with Steve meetings in the weekly eblast as has been historically done.

XIV. Next Board Meeting

Monday, July 19th at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business,

Sweet moved and Walsh seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed at 8:17 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2021

Chair

Secretary