

# DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022

Via Zoom

Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gp57\\_01pkj5elhiiMh8QRtCMqjSQoaG32nH4GnmutlALpiaHJIHBSZznM8v\\_o0wr.yXTIA4Gx9T6AF1dW](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/gp57_01pkj5elhiiMh8QRtCMqjSQoaG32nH4GnmutlALpiaHJIHBSZznM8v_o0wr.yXTIA4Gx9T6AF1dW)

### I. Call to Order

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

Other Board members in attendance were:

Andrew Gittleman, Vice President

Abby Larson

Laurie Rice

Carletta Sweet, Secretary

Joe Tamburino

Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Board Member Jim Bishop was absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Steve Cramer, Minneapolis Downtown Council

Larry Dole, The Legacy Condominiums

Salma Ibrahim, University of Minnesota

Joe Kriesman, Downtown Improvement District

Randy Manthey, The Carlyle Condominiums

Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Council Member

Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide

Dustin Sprouse, River Towers

Shane Zahn, Downtown Improvement District

### II. Consideration of Agenda

After removing MPRB 4th District update and Oaklands on 9th MNHS grant update,

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

### III. Ward 3 Update

Michael Rainville began his update by telling the Board how much he loves being a Council Member and to serve this great city because they're coming back and going to be a part of the reawakening and rebuilding of our city. Then he reported the following:

- For the 2022 Scooter Program, the City awarded contracts to three companies – Lyft, Lime and Spin (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/getting-around/scooters/scooter-companies/>) – and he plans to meet with all three to learn their plans for educating the users, enforcing the rules, and resolving complaints. Because he wasn't part of the last contract negotiations, all three will have to prove themselves this summer to be considered again for a contract in 2023.

- He's working with some condo residents in the Mill District to organize a fundraiser to hire a beat officer to work out of the Police Safety Center at The Vicinity, 205 Park Avenue (<http://millcitytimes.com/news/dmna-announces-opening-of-police-safety-center-at-the-vicini.html>). He's done this successfully across the river at the Precinct 2 East Hennepin Substation for 21 years because the reality is there's not going to be officers to patrol the neighborhood on foot. They're shooting for June 1st and he has a commitment from Inspector Peterson to find the officers to patrol the neighborhood, especially around Gold Medal Park so that it doesn't become a drug market. The anticipated financial need is between \$20,000 and \$25,000, and the extra patrols would happen 3-4 days a week in the later afternoon hours and evenings.

McCrea asked Rainville to use an online fundraising software (<https://www.capterra.com/sem-compare/fundraising-software/>) that the DMNA can adapt to its needs to make it easy to donate and is accessible to the entire community.

- After McCrea shared what the DMNA is doing about public safety, which is being led by Joe Bishop, Rainville asked to speak to him about work he's doing with the Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association (<https://www.niebna.com/>) to develop a Neighborhood Engagement Plan using their NRP funds. It involves having a civilian worker accompanied by a uniformed officer conduct popups outside of residential buildings serving food and beverages to talk and receive input. This has been approved by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department.

Walsh then relayed the difficulty she and her friend had in finding an available lavatory in downtown today despite their visits to four buildings; it took speaking with a store manager to gain access. During their inquiries they were told by building staff they had been reaching out to the Mayor's Office to find out why this is occurring and how can they get residents down to shop, be comfortable so they can stay longer.

Rainville explained restrooms have become a point of security because people go in there to use drugs, overdose, and engage in sex trafficking. Walsh's situation is duly noted and he'll pass it on to the Mayor.

Steve Cramer, President and CEO of MDC-DID, added that on the bathroom side, the Downtown Improvement District's office at 651 Nicollet, Suite 105 (<https://www.mplsdid.com/contact>) in Gaviidae Common is open and has a bathroom as an option. It's been an initiative the DID has investigated but it got knocked on its backend by COVID but it has to resurface. And another piece of good news that involves downtown is the fact that a Golden Valley company (<https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2022/05/06/canteen-one-signs-north-loop-lease.html>) is relocating 200 employees into a building adjacent to the North Loop encampment on North 5th Street that has been so problematic.

Rainville explained everyone in the encampment that wanted help got help and he has a meeting with Avivo (<https://avivomn.org/>) to plan another one because that's the way they're going to move forward to solve the problem of homelessness.

#### **IV. MPRB 4th District Update**

Although Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer was unavailable, she provided a brief email report regarding the 2022 Scooter Share Program (reference email forwarded by Randy Manthey). Scooters arrive on the streets this week. The MPRB contract with the scooter companies has not been finalized.

## V. Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District 2022 Safety Plan

Steve Cramer (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/steve-cramer-4368b387>) stated they are grateful for the DMNA's support for a number of initiatives over recent years. They have implemented their full safety program from law enforcement through outreach and in between as early as ever this year. They've even committed to some initiatives they don't have fully funded because they think they're that important, and if it comes to it, they can cut back later in the year or take out of reserves, so they're grateful to talk about what the program looks like, how it will affect downtown, how it can be available in our part of downtown, and the fiscal realities.

Shane Zahn, Director of Safe Initiatives (<https://www.mplsdid.com/contact>), then gave an overview of their 2022 Safety Plan developed last year which focuses on the following five areas:

- Communications & Collaborations
- Security Presence & Response
- Activation, Vibrancy and Crime Prevention
- Livability and Street Engagement
- Advocacy for a Safer Downtown

Then Joe Kriesman, Social Impact Director, talked about where the DID is focusing its safety presence and response. The DID covers 120 blocks of the downtown community and most of the work they do with the Ambassadors (<https://www.mplsdid.com/ambassadors>) and Livability Team (<https://www.mplsdid.com/livability>) runs through the Safety Communication Center in the 1st Precinct. Next, he provided a brief update on the following initiatives:

- Safety Communication Center (open 356 days a year)
- DID Ambassadors (weekday and weekend hours)
- RadioLINK (links over 70 buildings within the 120 blocks of the downtown community)
- Livability Team
- Social Worker Outreach Program (weekdays)
- Social Impact Manager
- 21 Days of Peace
- Police Reserves (3 days a week)
- Mad Dads (Monday through Friday)
- YouthLink
- Youth Coordinating Board

Zahn then reviewed the Safety and Outreach Budget and indicated the total investment is just over \$3 million. They have secured \$2,968,000, have a funding shortfall of about \$164,000, and they are anticipating a \$100,000 contribution from the City to help offset some of the gap. They will use those dollars to help focus on response to the area at 9th Street and Nicollet Mall. Cramer and Zahn also provided some recommendations on how the DID can help address issues that arise in the Mill District. Zahn encouraged residents to use the Safety Communication Center's Operations Hotline at 612-332-1111.

Thereafter, they entertained questions from the Board.

Tamburino inquired about how the DID coordinates with the City's Office of Violence Prevention which has a huge budget (from \$500,000 in 2018 to over \$7 million in 2022). Zahn replied they are getting about 20 violence interrupters in downtown to help their team reset Monday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and there is more work that needs to be done in the presence and response approach as they move into the summer months. Cramer said they are hopeful that there will be more collaboration between the City and the DID moving forward.

Larson inquired about the boundaries of the DID Ambassadors versus the social workers. Zahn indicated the Ambassadors must stay on the street, while social workers are able to go into the Skyways.

Hantge advised there are \$45,000 in funds available in the DMNA's Equitable Engagement Program to support street outreach. McCrea believes channeling our money through the DID is the best bang for the buck and we've gotten our money's worth.

*Tamburino moved and Rice seconded a motion to support a contribution to the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District's 2022 Safety and Outreach Program in an amount up to \$45,000. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

For more information, visit <https://www.mplsdid.com/page/show/7164033-did-safety-initiatives> and <https://www.minneapolis.org/safety-updates/future-of-public-safety/>.

McCrea then asked if there was any chance to resurrect the no loitering law (<https://minnesota.cbslocal.com/2015/06/22/antiquated-lurking-loitering-laws-have-long-history-in-twin-cities/> and <https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2015/06/why-repeal-minneapolis-lurking-and-spitting-laws-succeeded-time/>). She and Tamburino would love to have it back. Rainville suggested she have lunch with him to further discuss.

#### **VI. Oaklands on 9th MNHS Grant for Signage**

Although Elizabeth Vandam was unavailable, she provided a brief email report regarding the project. She noted that the sign is in the beginning stages of fabrication with a projected 10-week construction time. The grant proceeds are in process.

#### **VII. Consent Agenda**

*Walsh moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the F2022 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending March 31, 2022; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for March (Invoice #087); and the 2021 tax filings, including the Minnesota Charitable Organization Annual Report and the IRS Form 990. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### **VIII. Land Use Committee Report**

In the absence of both the DMNA LUC Chair Kevin Frazell and Vice Chair L. B. Guthrie, DMNA Board Liaison Laurie Rice reported on the following projects presented at the April 12th meeting:

- A. Four Season Hotel Liquor License Application.** General Manager Florian Riedel (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/florian-riedel-7854168/> and <https://www.hospitalitynet.org/appointment/79022559.html>), is seeking an On-Sale liquor license application with Sunday Sales and General Entertainment License

for the new Four Seasons Hotel. The operations will include a 222-guest room hotel with several different event spaces, one restaurant, and two cafes within the hotel, serving food and beverages to hotel guests and the public. There is an open-air terrace on the 4th floor, "Riva Terrace", which faces the Nicollet Mall side of the building. This area will have 350 seats and a capacity of 964. They plan to offer general live entertainment throughout the hotel, including the open-air area of the 4th floor Riva Terrace.

The LUC recommended support for this On-Sale liquor license application with Sunday Sales and General Entertainment License.

- B. Ivy Hotel Liquor License Application.** Licensing Consultant Isa Marshall from Bluebonnet Consulting (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isa-marshall-037877125/>) is seeking an On-Sale liquor license application with Sunday sales and 2 a.m. permit for the hotel lobby bar and banquet facilities. There is no outdoor/sidewalk seating. There are two restaurants located in the hotel operated by a third-party tenant with their own liquor license.

The LUC recommended support for this an On-Sale liquor license application with Sunday sales and 2 a.m. permit

- C. 2nd Street South Construction Project.** Dan Edgerton, Vice President of Community Planning at Zan Associates (<https://www.zanassoc.com/dan-edgerton> and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielredgerton>) came to inform us of the resurfacing project (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/2nd-st-resurfacing/>). In 2023, street improvements will be made from 2nd Avenue South to 13th Avenue South ([https://www.minneapolismn.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/2nd-St-Bikeway-Fact-Sheet\\_1-26-22.pdf](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/media/-www-content-assets/documents/2nd-St-Bikeway-Fact-Sheet_1-26-22.pdf)).

The LUC emphasized safety issues particularly for pedestrians at the 11th Avenue and Guthrie Theater crosswalks.

*Rice moved and Walsh seconded to approve the two above-mentioned liquor license applications presented at the April 12th Land Use Committee meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

The next LUC meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 3, unless there are no agenda items to review.

## **IX. President's Report**

McCrea reported on the following:

- Earth Day Cleanup is on Saturday, April 23rd, from 10 a.m. to Noon, starting at The Commons. Hantge has sent out flyers so try to have them posted in our buildings.
- The vacant Board seat will remain for the time being. If anyone has ideas about a possible candidate, please let McCrea know.
- The Civic Engagement Committee is paused for now due to lack of a Committee Chair and interest from community members.
- Andy Gittleman has offered FirstService Residential (<https://www.fsresidential.com/minnesota/offices/downtown-minneapolis>) and its Associates to help in planning and coordinating this year's

National Night Out event. It will take place on Tuesday, August 2nd, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Commons. FS Residential property managers will help fundraise, plan the event, and promote the event to residents in their buildings.

## **X. Committee Reports**

- A. Branding.** Walsh advised we have DMNA branded items available to give away at our events this summer. She stressed that promoting the DMNA brand is the key to the future of the organization. She plans to participate in the NNO event at the DMNA booth.
- B. Historic Signage Committee.** Walsh stated this year the committee is continuing to work on researching and writing the narratives for 20 downtown buildings with historic significance; they are expanding from the Mill District into greater downtown which will make walking there more interesting.
- C. HOA Advisory Group.** Chair Dustin Sprouse reported on the April 12th meeting that took place via Zoom. It was well attended and included guest speakers MPD 1st Precinct Inspector Bill Peterson and Crime Prevention Specialist Renée Allen. Jim Bishop also reported on the North Loop's Neighborhood Safety Block Club. The next HOA Advisory Group meeting will take place in person on Tuesday, May 10th, 6:00 p.m. at the Legacy Condominiums.

At this point in the meeting, Council Member Rainville also talked about the Mill District Public Safety Center and his hope to get some MPD officers using the space this summer. He has been talking with Inspector Peterson about it. This is challenging, because the MPD is so short staffed. He also mentioned that he has been attending roll calls at the start of shifts at the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct. He has been bringing community members with him to show support to the officers. This has been well received. If you would like to participate, please contact his office.

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

Larson asked who plans to attend the Earth Day Community Cleanup event, and asked Walsh for a DMNA branded hat.

Then she announced she's now Area Manager for Sherman Associates' downtown properties and oversees the Encore (<https://mplscore.com/>), East End (<https://eastendmpls.com/>), The Vicinity (<https://thevicinitympls.com/>), and the Moment (<https://www.sherman-associates.com/properties/moment/>) will open this fall so she'll be posting all types of information for them.

## **XII. Next Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting date is TBD. Hantge will send out a Doodle poll to determine whether May 16th or May 23rd works best for the majority of the board.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business,

*Tamburino moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed at 6:53 p.m.*

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary