

# DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

## Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, May 23, 2022

*Via Zoom*

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JiMcEXG\\_Xxvcp64YTP9l4wLu4aAsPRYOqWpN5h24Gc8xIs\\_mbY7ljTl\\_bxD\\_8Kcw1.JWRQ3tvhcCgZTo\\_S](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/JiMcEXG_Xxvcp64YTP9l4wLu4aAsPRYOqWpN5h24Gc8xIs_mbY7ljTl_bxD_8Kcw1.JWRQ3tvhcCgZTo_S)

### **I. Call to Order**

President Pamela McCrea called the Board meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jim Bishop  
Andrew Gittleman, Vice President  
Abby Larson  
Laurie Rice  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Dianne Walsh, Treasurer

Board Member Joe Tamburino was absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Muhammad Abdul-Ahad, Stop the Violence	Varun Kharbanda, Timeshare Systems, Inc
Ethrophic Burnette, Mpls Ofc of Violence Prevention	Randy Manthey, The Carlyle Condominiums
Lane Christianson, Mpls Stormwater Outreach	Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Council Member
Sasha Cotton, Mpls Office of Violence Prevention	LaTonya Reeves, Downtown West resident
Sarah Dungan, Minnesota Water Stewards	Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide
Dan Edgerton, Zan Associates	Elizabeth Shaffer, MPRB Commissioner
Susan Field, Humboldt Lofts	Jen White, Mpls Office of Violence Prevention
Kevin Frazell, Zenith Lofts	Elizabeth Vandam, Oakland Apartments

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

*Gittleman moved and Larson seconded a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

### **III. Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Update**

District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer (<https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/about-us/leadership-and-structure/park-board-commissioners/commissioner-elizabeth-shaffer/>) began by explaining how she makes decisions on important issues. First, she listens so that she can understand both sides. Then she asks if the issue is related to the mission of the MPRB. Next, she assesses if the proposed solution is

collaborative and practical. Finally, she makes her decision and communicates it to her constituents.

Shaffer then highlighted the following policy actions taken within the last few weeks:

- She put forth an amendment to scooter contracts to reduce speed geofences for West River Parkway between 3rd and 13th Avenues South as well as Victory Parkway to be implemented this season. The amendment was unanimously approved and the contract is in place. Prior to the 2023 license renewal, they'll assess whether it was successful.
- She found out this afternoon where scooters are left along the riverfront and provided a map showing if they're on MPRB property or City right of way; because they are on City right of way, Council Member Michael Rainville will go to bat on this. When she asked Mobility Manager Danielle Elkins about the number of scooters in the picture, her response was they don't have allocations for anything but equity distribution areas, so there is no limit to the number of scooters allowed in the Mill District.
- They planted over \$1 million dollars in trees this spring or nearly 9,000 trees.
- They restored their relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department.

She concluded by saying that residents should report scooter violations to the MPRB.

#### **IV. 2nd Street South Improvements Project**

Dan Edgerton, Senior Project Manager at Minneapolis Public Works |contractor from Zan Associates (<https://www.zanassoc.com/dan-edgerton>), apologized for the confusion his recent outreach letter to the neighborhood caused; it had a short comment period but there's no official comment period. Then while using a slide presentation titled *2nd Street South Resurfacing and Corridor Improvements Project*, he presented an overview of the project and noted the impetus for which is a mill and overlay maintenance project (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/2nd-st-resurfacing/>) is planned for 2nd Street South and 13th Avenue South next summer to extend the life of the roadway before the bigger reconstruction. While that's being done the question is, are there other improvements they can do to make it work better for everybody at very little additional cost? Pavement rehabilitation is planned for summer 2023, with that they'll improve the 88 curb ramps for accessibility, and they're still evaluating whether there are other improvements either to bike lanes or pedestrian crossings. They currently don't have a plan because they first need to hear from the community about their priorities. His intention is to get input through the community engagement process to help formulate some plans, they'll come back with a plan later in the summer to receive feedback, and over the winter they'll do the detailed engineering.

Edgerton also described current conditions of South 2nd Street and explained what they've heard from the 4,000+ mailings, one-on-one conversations, DMNA subcommittee meeting, etc., as well as opportunity areas.

Upon concluding his presentation, Edgerton responded to questions from the Board and audience.

## V. Office of Violence Prevention Update

Sasha Cotton, Director of the Office of Violence Prevention (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sasha-cotton-6100b126/>), first introduced herself and her colleagues Jen White, Community and Interagency Engagement Manager at OVP (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-white-bba1676/>), Ethrophic Burnett, Special Project Coordinator at the City (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ethrophic-burnett-903012a0/>), and . Muhammed Abdul-Ahad, team lead with Minneapolis Strategic Outreach Initiative (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/office-violence-prevention/violence-prevention-initiatives/#>) and founder of T.O.U.C.H. Outreach (<https://www.longfellownokomismessenger.com/stories/community-protecting-community.2663#>).

Then while using a slide presentation ([https://citizensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2\\_Sasha-Cotton-OVP-Slides-CFPS-2.20.21.pdf](https://citizensleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2_Sasha-Cotton-OVP-Slides-CFPS-2.20.21.pdf)), Cotton explained they're housed in the Minneapolis Health Department (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/>) and their four-step approach to violence prevention is systematic and scientific, i.e., they define the problem, identify risk and protective factors, develop and test prevention strategies, and assure widespread adoption. They embrace the belief that violence isn't inevitable and like other communicable diseases, we can protect against, prevent, and treat violence. Violence prevention is multifaceted, so solutions must be too. Solutions to violence prevention is on a continuum from approaches taken before violence has occurred (Up Front); early intervention at first sign of risk (In The Thick) – this the area in which they work; and responses after violence has occurred (Aftermath) – this is the area where people have been showing up more lately.

Although they were created in 2018 and launched in 2019, the City has been thinking about violence as a public health issues since 2006 (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/office-violence-prevention/violence-prevention-history/#>). They categorize their OVP initiatives (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/office-violence-prevention/violence-prevention-initiatives/#>) by the solutions to violence prevention continuum, i.e., Up Front, In The Thick, and Aftermath. They work in partnership with hospitals to break the cycle of violence, they work to address the actions gangs/groups responsible for driving serious violence in the city through Group Violence Intervention (GVI), and in fall of 2020 they launched the violence interrupters program.

Abdul-Ahad then gave an overview of his engagement activities. His two orange-shirt-wearing teams are out on Nicollet between 7th and 11th Streets, 6 days a week building relationships with young people to find out what resources they need. One team canvases at 5 p.m. -11 p.m., and the other one canvases at 12:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. He's been partnering with neighborhood organizations and community centers to utilize some of their spaces for youth activities. He has South High School (<https://south.mpls.k12.mn.us/>) 2-5 p.m. on Saturdays; it's a challenge but he's working hard.

Then during Q&A, Cotton advised their annual budget is \$8 million (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/office-violence-prevention/2021-budget-report/>), and this and next they'll have a total supplemental budget of \$3 million from the American Recovery Act (<https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/american-rescue-plan-act-funding-breakdown>). The just released 2021 spending report reveals that 80% of their funding goes back into community-based

programming and the balance goes to technical assistance and training as well as the small internal City staff.

She also advised residents, organizations and businesses with proposals that target specific forms of violence affecting their communities can apply for \$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$75,000 grants from the Office of Violence Prevention Fund (<https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1477316/download>), e.g., Hennepin Theater Trust (<https://hennepintheatretrust.org/news/trust-recognized-by-city-of-minneapolis-for-innovative-placemaking-work/#>). Eligible programs include community outreach, block patrols, youth mentoring, employment, recreational activities, education opportunities and more. It's typically open in the spring and provides programming through the summer. This year through American Rescue Plan (ARP) resources, they'll be able to open it twice.

Lastly, Abdul-Ahad announced he is hosting the second annual Stop the Violence community cookout at Peavey Field Park on Thursday, July 28th, 1:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. (<https://spokesman-recorder.com/2022/07/28/stop-the-violence-cookout-draws-crowds-in-south-minneapolis/>), and he has a lot of fun activities planned for young people.

## **VI. Minnesota Water Stewards Project Update**

Sarah Dungan introduced herself and advised she lives in Downtown West at the Churchill. She is working on a project with the Minnesota Water Stewards (<https://minnesotawaterstewards.org/>) to prevent water pollution and educate community members to conserve and protect our waterways. The program is a partnership between Freshwater Society (<https://freshwater.org/>) and participating cities, counties, watershed management organizations, and non-profits. She explained that in order to become a certified water steward, she has to organize and complete a volunteer project. She is planning an Adopt-A-Drain (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/clean-city/adopt-a-drain/>) painting and river cleanup event. She introduced Lane Christianson, Minneapolis Stormwater Outreach Program Manager (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lanechristianson/>) who reviewed the Adopt-A-Drain and Storm Drain Stenciling Programs (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/clean-city/storm-drain-stenciling/>). As soon as she has a date scheduled for her event, she will share the information with Hantge to post on our Facebook page and include in our weekly e-newsletter.

## **VII. Ward 3 Update**

Council Member Rainville reported on the following:

- Met with representatives from Lift, Lime and Spin. He encouraged the DMNA Board to schedule a meeting or meetings with all of the operators, as well.
- Met with condo owners in the Mill District regarding a public safety fundraiser to help pay for additional police officers in the neighborhood over the weekend. This would be a pilot project that could potentially be replicated in other parts of downtown or the city. The estimated total cost is \$22,000, which would provide additional patrols on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. The Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association does something similar.

Upon conclusion of his update, McCrea asked for a motion to support his Mill District Community Policing Initiative Pilot Project.

*Walsh moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to support the Mill District Community Policing Initiative Pilot Project. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**VIII. Minnesota Historical Society Legacy Grant for the Oaklands on 9th Apartments Signage**  
Elizabeth Vandam, author and architecture historian, reported the following:

- The plaque and all install items were delivered to the Oakland on Friday, May 20, 2022. The plaque is beautiful!
- Installation is currently in the scheduling phase for as early as this Friday, May 27, 2022 or the beginning of next week.
- Look for a feature article about the Oakland's history and preservation story in the upcoming Hennepin History Museum (HHM) quarterly, due out Jun 1.
- HHM is also working with the Oakland's owner to hold an event this summer to celebrate the marker's installation
- When installation is complete, I will write the final report required by MNHS and close out the grant. This includes depositing a copy of the plaque text at the Special Collections Library in two files—the Harry Wild Jones file and the Oakland Apartment file.
- As the check for the grant is more than the price of the plaque and installation, DMNA will be responsible for returning the unused portion of the monies.
- When the final report and unused portion of the monies have been accepted by MNHS, which can take up to 30 days, the grant will be considered closed. At that time, I will be sending a check to the DMNA for 10% of the project total. Those proceeds are sponsored by me and the Oakland's owner as grant monies cannot be used.

Finally, Vandam noted that if you have not seen the Lakewood Chapel (<https://www.lakewoodcemetery.org/places/memorial-chapel/>), especially the beautiful mosaic interior, she encourages us to visit during the cemetery's open house over the Memorial Day weekend. It was designed in 1908 by Harry Jones who is also the architect for the historic Oakland Apartment building.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

*Gittleman moved and Bishop seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the March 21, 2022 Board meeting minutes; the April 18, 2022 Board meeting minutes; the F2022 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending April 30, 2022; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for April (Invoice #088). McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**X. Land Use Committee Report**

DMNA LUC Chair Kevin Frazell reported on the May 9th meeting. There was only one presentation, an update on the 800 Washington Avenue South project presented by Brian Dusek, Managing

Principal at AECOM (<https://www.apollo.io/people/Brian/Dusek/5ac547baa6da9883e42c6c11> and <https://wiza.co/d/aecom/b215/brian-dusek>), developer of the Guthrie Liner Parcel, and Emily Stern, Senior Project Coordinator at Minneapolis CPED (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emily-stern-2178905>), who came to address issues the Board had about short- and long-term rentals, and to discuss ways to mitigate the lighting at the Riverfront Municipal Parking Ramp. The primary discussion related to the term sheet with the City and how the developer will regulate short- and long-term rentals. The developer has committed to the DMNA that they will prevent the lease of any units for short-term rentals and will put reasonable restrictions on long-term rentals. The developer will come back to the DMNA LUC and present an update on any land use applications prior to them going to the Planning Commission.

The next LUC meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 5th, and they will hear about two new development projects: one from Hines and the other from Sherman Associates.

#### **XI. President's Report**

McCrea reported she is working with Amanda Wigen, Communications Director at Friends of The Falls (<https://thefalls.org/friends-of-the-falls/>), and Council Member Rainville on the encampment that is on Federal property by the river.

#### **XII. Committee Reports**

**A. Historic Signage Committee.** Walsh stated that her committee is continuing to work on researching and writing the narratives for 20 downtown buildings with historic significance this year.

**B. HOA Advisory Group.** McCrea reported on the May 10th meeting, which took place at the Legacy Condominiums. They heard updates from Minnesota House Representative Esther Agbaje (<https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members/profile/15551>) and Ward 3 Council Member Michael Rainville. The next meeting will take place on June 28th at the Four Seasons Hotel.

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

**A. Scooter Update.** Hantge will work with Council Member Rainville's office to set-up a meeting with the scooter operators in June. If you have specific questions that you would like to ask the scooter representatives, please send them to Hantge by June 10th.

**B. National Night Out** is set for August 2nd, at The Commons. FirstService Residential is helping fundraise and plan the event.

**C. Personal Safety Workshop** is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th, 6 p.m., at The Commons.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

There being no further business,

*Sweet moved and Rice seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary