

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, August 22, 2022

Via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/u306G631x_fu8XDECgF8IYD8YqI4LiSvL3wtzMBsR369jLr85tz8uRzae57-Y9w.bzKcQEVj2rBzfOPf

Passcode: wCm1s@ja

I. Call to Order

President Pamela McCrea called the Board meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

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

Board members Abby Larson and Joe Tamburino were absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Minneapolis Shared Mobility Team

Danielle Elkins, Mobility Manager
Max Gonzalez, Mobility Operations Analyst

Scooter Vendors

Jeff Hoover, Veo
Olivia Ortega, Veo
Vaughn Roland, Bird

Other Guests

Kevin Frazell, Zenith Lofts
Brody Honkanen, IncredibleBank
Amy Koch
Randy Manthey, Carlyle Condominiums
Cole Mayer
Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Council Member
Wendy Rubinyi, Bridgewater Lofts
Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide

II. Consideration of Agenda

After McCrea added the May and July meeting minutes to the consent agenda, and Native Land Signage and a DMNA survey under the President's Report,

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

III. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Rainville, who was joining by phone while in route to a public listening session on topics related to the new police contract (<https://m.facebook.com/events/1825316041140048/>), announced the agenda for an upcoming Mill District public safety meeting on Wednesday, August 24th, 6:30 p.m. at The Depot

Minneapolis:

- Report from the MPD on calls for service before as well as after the concrete barriers were installed on South 2nd Street
- Public comment period
- What Minneapolis Public Works can and cannot do in the short term, and what they and the MPD can do together to plan for the future, and
- Scooter comment period. Going forward, he'll be personally involved in the negotiations for next year's contract.

IV. Continued Conversation and Q&A with Additional 2022 Scooter Rental Vendors and City Staff

Jeff Hoover, Director of Government Partnerships at Veo (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeffhoover17/>), introduced himself and announced he was accompanied by Olivia Ortega, Midwest Partnerships & Policy Manager at Veo (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/olivia-ortega/>). They were accompanied from the City by Danielle Elkins, Mobility Manager (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/danielkins/>), and Max Gonzalez, Operational Specialist (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/max-gonzalez-mpa-439323150/>).

Hoover advised they are excited to have launched in Minneapolis as of today, and like most other providers in the city they are permitted for 500 scooters with the City, 130 with the University of Minnesota, and are working through the licensing process with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Veo is about 5 years old and was born in West Lafayette, Indiana as a bike share company and evolved into scooters with the belief everyone who wants to ride should be able to ride regardless of their physical ability or body type, and as a consequence they offer a variety of scooter options for different abilities (<https://www.veoride.com/fleet/>; <https://venturebeat.com/transportation/lifelong-passion-and-experience-brings-profitability-to-veo/>). Both founders, Yanke Edwin Tan (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/yanke-edwin-tan-9653a2105/>) and Candice Xie (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/candicexie/>), worked with Purdue students and have substantial experience in the industry.

Their local team had a great conversation with CM Rainville 2 weeks ago who was clear about his expectations of Veo. They have a great working relationship thus far with the Department of Public Works team, are excited to be rolling out and expanding their services to the river fully fleeted and fully deployed and are excited for what the balance of 2022 and hopefully several years in the future has in store for them.

Then in response to questions, Hoover advised they deploy the available technology in specific geographical points relative to sidewalk riding directly in conjunction with the DPW team to ensure riders and nonriders are safe and respected (<https://www.veoride.com/safety/>). He clarified they're not here to commit to one policy or another; they operate their contract in partnership with the City team and will make decisions with them. He'll listen to us, take our requests into strong consideration, circle up with the City team, then they'll make the best decision in conjunction with their professional advise and recommendation.

McCrea noted the DMNA represents about 50,000 people in downtown Minneapolis whether they live, work, or own property, so we take our job as a neighborhood association very seriously. Public safety is our No. 1 concern and because we're also pedestrian friendly, pedestrian safety is also important to our organization.

Vaughn Roland, Senior Manager of Government Partnerships at Bird (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vaughn-roland-13a97823/>), explained they're happy to be back in the market and able to offer clean, safe, and equitable alternative modes of transportation. He's excited to open up the discussion to hear what our concerns are and how they can continue to collaborate with the other operators and DPW to ensure they're addressing our concerns.

In response to how Bird is handling the prevention of scooters in Gold Medal Park and on sidewalks, Roland advised they've taken the lead of DPW to follow the right policies and regulations that have been put forth and offer a form of sidewalk technology which was required.

Land Use Committee member Randy Manthey, who believes the scooter license agreement is well written and clear as to what is and what's not accepted, inquired what the scooter companies are doing about enforcement of the statutes and ordinance (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/169.225>; <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/getting-around/scooters/scooter-companies/>), and educating particularly the young riders because he's seen time and time again underage riding, abandonment of scooters, double riding, and disruptive behavior late at night. [His concerns were consistent with what was raised at the July Board meeting with Lime, Lyft, and Spin, i.e., frustration over riders who do not follow the rules, including riding on sidewalks and not on the street or designated bikeways; traveling at a high rate of speed without regard for pedestrians; not wearing helmets; underage and multiple riders on a single scooter.]

Regarding enforcement, Hoover advised they're going to levy fines and issue 311 tickets, and regarding education they'll share feedback to riders through deploying a geofence, using digital communications, talking directly to riders following instances where there's an issue, and working with the other providers and the City to staff bridge locations where the highest traffic exists and have people on site to deal with mis-parked scooters.

Both Bird and Veo adhere to the City's structure in place as well as their own internal structure, and have additional face-to-face community engagement and constant education of their rider base to understand the importance of safety while riding and rules of the road and how they equate to various forms of fines.

Manthey, who lives a block and a half away from the Stone Arch Bridge and is on it virtually every day, has never seen any form of engagement or education in the last 3 years, so he hopes they're doing engagement and education and that it gets better. He implored them to continue to work with the City to find that happy partnership between scooters as appropriate transportation and pedestrians being able to use the space for their enjoyment. He believes in the scooter as a technology, as a form of transportation for a diverse group of people, but it's not and shouldn't be a recreational opportunity for amusement riding. With sincerity, he plead them to bring the SAB back to what it is, a shared opportunity for all users, scooters, bikers, and pedestrians, and that's not what it is at night.

For more information about the Scooter Share Program, visit <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/getting-around/scooters/>.

V. Consent Agenda

Gittleman moved and Rice seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the May 23rd

and July 11th Board meeting minutes; the F2022 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending July 31, 2022; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for July (Invoice #091); McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Land Use Committee Report

LUC Chair Kevin Frazell reported on the following projects presented at the August 8th meeting:

A. Red Lake Nation College Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan Review by Chief Dan King, President (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dan-king-96b921a3/>), Luke Capistrant, Project Manager at Loeffler Construction & Consulting (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/luke-capistrant-966a4780/>), and Tom Wasmoen, CEO and Managing Principal at Firm Ground Architects (<https://www.firmgroundae.com/team>). This project also came before the LUC on July 12th (https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yzf_chu78BMiGvWKIqc7PpemVtkSavSaLHR8eCrv7D4w9zeV35nJ50sCzNtRrora.y5orf0DpvD2MLGt, Passcode: W1xC0j.=), and they're seeking an updated Letter of Support.

King reviewed general information regarding the college itself, as well as the plans for the Minneapolis campus. He explained how the project came to be and why they selected the location in the Downtown East neighborhood. They plan to invest \$11.2 million in the property between renovation and new construction. The project includes three buildings that will feature classrooms, training spaces, student services, and office space. They anticipate construction to be complete by July of 2023. The Minneapolis campus is primarily an online college with space for administrative staff and technology support in the 900 building.

Capistrant provided an overview of the site logistics and how they plan to stage construction. He explained how they will prepare the site for Minnesota Vikings home games and other large events at U.S. Bank Stadium and noted that they have communicated with the adjacent neighbors including Periscope and Ironclad.

Wasmoen advised they are providing all the production services for Native American architect Sam Olbekson (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/samolbekson/>) and working with City Planner Aaron Hanauer to prepare for the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, August 15th (<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Board/MarkedAgenda/CPC/3397>). Then he reviewed the updated architectural plans for the two existing buildings, as well as the new building that will connect them.

The LUC approved a motion to provide a Letter of Support for the CUP and Site Plan Review application.

B. Century Plaza Site Plan Review and Variance Applications by Michael Margulies of Newton RES, LLC, agent for the developer, 1111 Partners, LLC ([https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_mn/afdc74f-e0cd-
ea11-919f-00155d32b905](https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_mn/afdc74f-e0cd-
ea11-919f-00155d32b905)). The developer is proposing to repurpose this 5-story 1930s vacant building at 330 South 12th Street from office space to a 149-room hotel for extended stays to support events at the nearby Minneapolis Convention Center, and to house the Minneapolis Police Department's First Precinct. They are also planning to construct approximately 12,000 square feet of amenity space on the roof of the hotel (<https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2022/08/10/century-plaza-may-turn-into-hotel-police-precinct.html>). The building sits on a 2.77-acre lot, contains 441,840 square feet, and wraps around a

173,763 square foot parking ramp with 435 spaces.

They are seeking approval of the Site Plan Review to convert the existing building to a hotel and police station as well as for the rooftop addition, and Variance Applications to increase the maximum off-street parking requirement for a police station from 36 spaces to 222 spaces, and to reduce the off-street loading requirement for a hotel from 3 large spaces to 3 small spaces, all of which will go before the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 6th (<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Board/Agenda/CPC/3429>).

The LUC approved a motion to provide a LOS for the Site Plan Review and Variance Applications.

C. Other Project Updates from August 8th

1. **800 Washington Avenue South Update** by Brian Dusek, Founder and CEO of Regnum Capital Partners (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brianmdusek/>). He was accompanied by Emily Stern, Senior Project Coordinator at Minneapolis CPED (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emily-stern-2178905/>).

Dusek advised the request for HOA documentation he received when he last presented has been pushed to September, then he gave an overview of what they've been working on since that time. They had been looking for a sales center in close proximity, but because landlords in the area have opportunities for long-term leases in the spaces they considered, combined with the fact they're moving toward the winter season, the ownership has decided a sales center closer to the downtown core would make more sense in terms of visibility, more structured parking, and connections to the skyway. Hopefully by next month he'll be able to tell us where they've decided. Financing is in place and they have their Preliminary Development Review (PDR), but they're changing the architect of record because Matt Johnson who was a part of this project since inception has left DLR Group and joined ISG (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matt-johnson-2819155/>). He did receive confirmation that they do **not** need an updated LOS.

No action was taken on this project.

2. **Friends of the Falls Update** by Amanda Wigen, Communications Director (<https://thefalls.org/friends-of-the-falls/>) and Blake Slette (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bslette/>). Because Wigen will be on maternity leave in September, she introduced Slette who will be taking over communications for a while. Then she gave an overview of what has transpired since she last updated the Board on February 28, 2022, to secure site control of the land around the Lock and Dam, a progress update on the community engagement process (<https://thefalls.org/engage/#phases>), as well as the future of their work. For more information, visit <https://thefalls.org/>.

No action was taken on this project.

3. **Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam Disposition Study** (<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/USAF/>) by Land Use Committee member Paul St. Martin, Assistant City Engineer at City of St. Paul (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/paul-st-martin-052abb24/>). He is the DMNA's representative on the Section 106 working group (<https://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Regulatory-Division/Permit->

[Processes/Sec-106-National-Historic-Preservation-Act/](#)) which requires looking at historic resources and what's involved in the land transfer. They began meeting in June 2021 and last met on May 18, 2022. It's been moving very slowly and his assessment is that the Lock and Dam may just stay where it is because no one wants it and it would be expensive to remove.

No action was taken on this project.

D. Other Project Update from July 12th

U.S. Bank Stadium Security Perimeter Project by Consultant Chuck Lutz, Michael Vekich, Chair of the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/vekich/>), and Dick Strassburg, Partner at Tegra (<http://tegragroup.com/team/dick-strassburg/>). The MSFA is working with the Tegra Group and Forecast Public Arts (<https://forecastpublicart.org/>) to create something that is more neighborly than just a chain link fence; the NFL requires the fence. It will incorporate public art, and it will also be mobile and only put into place during large events at the stadium.

No action was taken on this project.

Rice moved and Gittleman seconded a motion to approve the two above-mentioned letters of support recommended by the LUC. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

The next LUC meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 6, 2022.

VII. President's Report

McCrea reported on the following:

- A. Mill District Community Policing Initiative.** McCrea provided an update on the extra bike patrols in the Mill District. They have secured \$10,000 for this program thus far. The Board will consider a motion tonight to move \$15,000 from funds raised for National Night Out to the Mill District Community Policing Initiative. Once the Board has approved the transfer of funds, bringing the balance to \$25,000, the Eleven Condominiums intends to contribute \$5,000, which balances the budget at \$30,000.

She reminded Board that the bike patrols are on duty on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. They have had to leave some shifts unfilled because officers have reached their overtime limits. The program will go through the end of September. She stated that officers are dealing with a lot of young people riding scooters illegally on private property. Officers have also noticed illegal activity happening in the parking ramps on South 2nd Street. Finally, she noted that officers are dealing with people experiencing mental health crises. McCrea then invited Gittleman to talk about the funds transfer.

Gittleman then talked about the funds transfer. FirstService Residential raised about \$75,000 for the NNO event and that the event cost approximately \$25,000, so there's about \$50,000 in excess funds. He has asked some of the NNO donors if they would be willing to allow their donations to be used for the Mill District Community Policing Initiative, and they agreed. As a result of these conversations,

Gittleman recommends that the DMNA Board approve the transfer of \$15,000 to the Mill District Community Policing Initiative. The balance will remain in the NNO fund for next year's event. Then he responded to questions from the Board. He only contacted four NNO donors and they were all businesses, not HOAs.

Gittleman moved and Bishop seconded a motion to transfer \$15,000 from National Night Out donations to the Mill District Community Policing Initiative. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed.

- B. National Night Out.** McCrea thanked Gittleman for the time and effort that FirstService Residential put into DMNA's NNO event at The Commons. She said it was a spectacular event and estimated there were between 1,500 and 2,000 people who attended. Rice said the band was excellent, Walsh said they distributed 250 DMNA branded items, and Bishop expressed appreciation.
- C. Native Lands Signage.** Wendy Rubinyi gave a quick presentation on her proposal for additional banner signage in the Mill District; she helped coordinate the creation of the Downtown East and Downtown West metal boundary signage as well as the Mill District and Gateway District banners. Rubinyi provided background on her new proposed banner project. She's been having conversations with representatives from the Guthrie Theater and the Native Advisory Council. The Guthrie sells products in their gift shop that are branded with the words, "You Are On Native Land." Rubinyi would like to see these words on banner signage in the neighborhood. She would like to convene a group of people to explore the proposal further if the DMNA Board supports the concept. When asked if they were generally supportive of the project concept, the Board said yes.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Historic Signage.** Walsh reported that the committee is working on signage for 19 buildings this year. Hantge has set-up the webpages for all the buildings and created the QR codes. Randy Manthey is in the process of designing the signs. Once the draft signs are ready, they will begin meeting with property owners. They anticipate having the 2022 signage installed by the end of October.
- B. HOA Advisory Group.** McCrea reported on the August 9th meeting, which took place via Zoom. She said most of the meeting time was spent with Lieutenant Kelly O'Rourke talking about crime and safety issues. The next meeting will take place on September 13th.

IX. New / Old / Other Business

- A. Annual Meeting.** McCrea would like to have an in-person meeting and a Volunteer of the Year award, and recommended we start thinking about recruiting new Board members. Hantge advised the meeting will take place at the end of October.
- B. Public Safety Committee.** Bishop commented on the idea about the DMNA re-establishing a public safety committee. He noted at this point that a committee does not currently exist and clarified that he is not interested in serving as chair if one were established. He is willing to be involved but does not have the time to chair it. Walsh apologized for any confusion that she might have caused. She had referred a resident to Bishop indicating he was the chair. McCrea indicated there are a number of

residents who want to be on a committee, but that at this point, we do not have anyone willing to lead it. Rice stated that a chair does not need to be on the Board but a Board member can serve as the liaison. Gittleman suggested the DMNA issue communications stating we are looking for people interested in serving on a committee. McCrea said this is a fine idea, but we need someone to lead it. Who is going to put the agendas together and organize the meetings? Bishop said he would serve as the liaison but he does not want to lead it. McCrea also asked what the purpose or the outcomes for the committee would be. Gittleman said he could do some networking to see if there is anyone interested in being on a public safety committee and/or serving as the chair.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business,

Gittleman moved and Bishop seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. McCrea called for discussion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2022

Chair

Secretary