

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, February 27, 2023**

*Via Zoom*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vWTF1C00kT5FuGaIOsRyemWH5QLFkIvtOuVxn2zSDFHv2kG2xtDmOLQJfKu\\_xwdd.5Z6vmeUNdXqCrXlk](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/vWTF1C00kT5FuGaIOsRyemWH5QLFkIvtOuVxn2zSDFHv2kG2xtDmOLQJfKu_xwdd.5Z6vmeUNdXqCrXlk)  
Passcode: 12Yemv!x)

**I. Call to Order**

President Andy Gittleman called the Board meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jim Bishop  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Joe Tamburino  
Dianne Walsh

Board Members Danielle Eisenbacher, Abby Larson, Isaac Risseeuw, and Pam McCrea were absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Fareeda Aden	Joe Stouffer
Dillon Fried, Minneapolis Public Works	Laura Tiano, DMNA Safety & Security Committee
Max Gonzalez, Minneapolis Public Works	Susan Traul, DMNA Civic Engagement Committee
Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Council Member	Amanda Wigen, Falls Initiative
Al Richwine	Sage Yeager, Falls Initiative
Wendy Rubinyi, DMNA Native Lands Project	Cole Younger
Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide	

**II. Consideration of Agenda**

Gittleman presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

*Sweet moved and Walsh seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**III. The Falls Initiative**

Amanda Wigen, Communications Director for Friends of the Falls, advised she was joined by Sage Yeager who is taking over Blake Slette's role as Outreach & Communications Assistant. Then she provided a progress update on the site they're concerned with, the 3 acres of land adjacent to the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam. Although it's their hope to have the Army Corps of Engineers continue to main that concrete structure, the disposition study is ongoing (<https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/USAF/#>) and they'll work with the outcome however it falls.

In 2021, they convened the Native Partnership Council, in partnership with the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) and CDA Enterprises (<https://www.facebook.com/DayAspinwall/>), to bring together a group of dedicated participants who could talk about this place and start their engagement process grounded in indigenous values. This allowed them to talk about the major themes and principles that they should bring forward into the public engagement process which began in 2022 through the community conversations series. The hope was to bring together both Native and non-Native communities to talk about the future of the Falls in a meaningful way. They were overwhelmingly pleased with the response and received a lot of genuine and respectful conversation that talks about the authenticity and what they can do to make this a place that reflects the true and complete history that hasn't been done before. They also launched a programming and partnership study which hasn't been released yet. The intention is to work with elders and youth to hear how they might program the space in the future. They'll be working on the results of that in 2023.

The culminating piece from the community conversations series shows the themes of power, healing and connections rising to the front. They took all the comments and tried to bring together some early design ideas; what they're seeing is a place that would lend itself toward healing, restoration, learning, *and* overwhelmingly celebrates the water. Earlier this month there was press about two renderings (<https://thefalls.org/2023/02/03/early-design-ideas-leadership/>) which are still open to interpretation and development but really thinks about how we make this site more accessible, green and lush.

They are excited to welcome incoming president, Shelley Buck (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shelley-buck-ptc-wicota-6a53b35a/>; [https://alleynews.org/2023/03/friendsoffalls\\_natived newboardmember/](https://alleynews.org/2023/03/friendsoffalls_natived newboardmember/)). The former president, Mark Andrew, retired at the beginning of 2023. Under his leadership they felt it was time to transition the organization to Native leadership. Buck is vice president of Prairie Island Indian Community (<https://prairieisland.org/our-government>), and member of the Native Partnership Council and got to know their work through that process.

Now that they have some consensus and understanding of what can happen at this site, in 2023 they are focused on ownership and conveyance, transferring the site from the federal government to local control. There will also be targeted outreach with Dakota tribal communities, education, and outreach to potential program partners.

Thereafter, Wigen responded to questions from the Board. Tamburino inquired, in reference to Public Law 280 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_Law\\_280](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_Law_280)), if it goes to tribal ownership, will they be abiding to local zoning ordinances. Wigen advised the conditions of any land transfer is in discussion right now. It's their hope to have the land conveyed in 2023.

For more information about Friends of the Falls, please visit <https://thefalls.org/>.

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

*Tamburino moved and Bishop seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the*

*January 23 Board meeting minutes; the F2023 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending January 31, 2023; the 2022 IRS Form 990; the 2022 MN Charitable Organization Annual Report and \$25 filing fee; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for January (Invoice #097). The motion passed.*

## V. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Michael Rainville reported on the following:

- A. 2nd Street Resurfacing Project.** Minneapolis Public Works is planning an open house for Tuesday, March 21st, 4:30 p.m., at the Depot Hotel (<https://www.thedmna.org/event/city-of-mpls-public-works-open-house-2nd-street-project/>). The plan has been updated to move the bike lanes from the north side to the south side of the street. There are also pedestrian islands at some key intersections. Stops signs have been repositioned as well. They will receive neighborhood input on the changes made, then they'll bid it out in time to complete the project by the fall 2023.

For more information, visit <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/2nd-st-resurfacing/>.

- B. The 2023 Scooter Share Program.** Dillon Fried (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dillon-fried-capp-29932a49/>), explained he manages all the off-street parking and curbside operations, and has taken on additional duties until they get a more finalized plan for the position of Mobility Manager which was formerly occupied by Danielle Elkins whose last day was last Friday. He also introduced Max Gonzalez, a Mobility Operations Analyst (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/max-gonzalez-mpa-439323150/>), who oversees the operations of the scooter program. The City Council approved their issuing three licenses to shared mobility operators (as opposed to five like last year) and they are working to finalize them. NiceRide is leaving the market and liquidating its assets (<https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/03/02/nice-ride-shuts-down-pioneering-minneapolis-bike-share-program>) which had both the classic pedal and ebikes. They are talking with the providers about who will provide the bikes as well as the scooters going forward.

Then during Q&A, Gonzalez advised they are looking at negotiations with companies regarding technologies to have a hard shut off to ensure people get to their destinations, and they're evaluating the distribution requirements to reduce the amount of scooters on the street. Also, it was the City's decision to authorize a certain number of operators. There is a speed reduction zone on the Stone Arch Bridge, and outside of that zone, they are subject to state regulation.

Gonzalez also mentioned his role in tracking compliance with the companies, and in enforcement.

## VI. Committee Reports

- A. Land Use.** There was no report this month. The committee meets on March 14th at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

**B. Safety and Security.** In the absence of Committee Chair Howard Cohen, Board Liaison Bishop gave the Safety and Security Committee update. He stated that the committee met on February 7th. He reported that the committee recommended not doing the Mill District Bike Patrol Program this summer. He referenced the report submitted by the committee posted on the Board Member Portal on the website. Reasonings for discontinuing the program include the following:

- Available data from the 2022 pilot is inconclusive. The bike patrol was conducted at the same time that street barriers were erected. Incident level was minor and could not be attributed specifically to the bike patrol.
- The hours of operation were quite limited. There were no major incidents during those hours or at other times for comparison.
- There was no marketing campaign to make residents in the patrol area aware of its existence.
- The use of uniformed officers as paid volunteers is problematic. Bike patrol supervisors report that diminished staffing levels makes it difficult to secure volunteers for all scheduled shifts. There is significant competition for the use of paid police officer volunteers. The program creates the perception that wealthier neighborhoods can purchase service that less wealthy neighborhoods cannot afford.
- Funds might be better used to invest in safety and security measures that do not stress police resources, for example, better lighting, video surveillance or civilian security. A specific way to enhance community security is the expansion of FUSUS, a "real-time crime center" that links residential and commercial video cameras to a police monitoring and dispatching network, creating an extensive public safety surveillance system. The Minneapolis Police Department is promoting the more extensive use of this system.
- In the event of another major disruption within the DMNA boundaries, the committee would be supportive of quickly establishing bicycle patrol policing, if that would be warranted.
- The Safety and Security Committee believes it would be productive to explore alternatives to improve the safety and security of downtown that end the Committee would like to convene neighborhoods. To representatives from the range of groups that have downtown safety as part of their mission. This convening would be to explore possible projects to address this objective and select a small number to collectively implement.

Gittleman asked if the committee was considering alternatives to the bike patrol program. Bishop said yes. They will continue to discuss ideas at upcoming meetings. Tamburino stated that he is disappointed in the recommendation of the committee and believes that some of the findings are wrong. He has heard great feedback from residents in his building, as well as other buildings in the Mill District. He would like to see the DMNA continue the program in 2023.

*Tamburino moved and Sweet seconded a motion to continue with the Mill District Bike Patrol Program again in 2023, since there are funds remaining from last year that would support it. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed with Bishop opposing.*

Gittleman and Bishop will report back to the Safety and Security Committee and decide how to proceed.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 21st at 3:00 p.m.

(<https://www.thedmna.org/event/dmna-safety-and-security-committee-on-march-21-at-the-carlyle/>).

- C. Civic Engagement.** Committee Chair Susan Traul gave the Civic Engagement Committee update. They met on February 7th and are continuing to discuss what the committee wants to accomplish in 2023. First and foremost, they want to increase the visibility of the DMNA with residents and get more people involved in community events (e.g., Personal Safety Workshop, Candidates Forum in partnership with the NLNA, National Night Out, Annual Meeting). They are working on updating a contact list for rental buildings and talking about doing some kind of a mailer to residents once the DMNA firms up all its 2023 events. A subcommittee is evaluating DMNA branded items and determining whether more are needed.

Hantge also informed Traul and Risseeuw that we'll be able to have a booth again this summer at the Mill City Farmers Market, the third Saturday in June, and the third Saturday in September.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 14th at 5 p.m., via Zoom.

- D. Native Lands Project.** In the absence of Board Member Pamela McCrea, DMNA volunteer Wendy Rubinyi gave a brief report on the "You Are On Native Lands" signage project. She advised that a small group of community members have been working with the Guthrie Theater, the Native Advisory Council (<https://www.guthrietheater.org/about-us/native-advisory-council/>), and Friends of the Falls to place 50 banners on streetlights in the Mill District which will acknowledge that residents and visitors are on Native Lands. There is a QR code on the banner that goes to a page on the DMNA website that will include a land acknowledgement statement, as well as ways to support the local Native American community. The designed was finalized by the elders of the tribes, and they have worked with the artists and Pixel to put up the signs in April. Hopefully by May 24th (on rabbit Moon day) they'll have a dedication event scheduled.
- E. Historic Signage.** Committee Chair Dianne Walsh reported that at a presentation in late January they went to a committee of 4 to a committee of 10; people wanted to adopt a building downtown. They have selected 26 buildings and everyone is in the process of obtaining permission and starting the research. They have completed the 2022 project and hope to create two dozen more signs in 2023.

The next Historic Signage Committee meeting is on March 13th at 7 p.m., via Zoom.

**VII. New / Old / Other Business**

- **Pianos on Parade.** Hantge stated that Meghan Gustafson from the Minneapolis Downtown Council recently reached out to her to find out whether the DMNA would be willing to support the 2023 Pianos on Parade Program. Hantge noted that this is an initiative that the DMNA has supported for the past 5 or so years. Last year the DMNA made a \$2,500 contribution. The DMNA has funds in its Neighborhoods 2020-2023 Budget that could support the program again this year. The program meets the Equitable Engagement Fund guidelines.

*Walsh moved and Sweet seconded a motion to provide a \$2,500 contribution to the 2023 Pianos on Parade Program. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed.*

For more information on the Pianos on Parade Program, please visit <https://www.mplsdowntown.com/pianos/>.

**VIII. President’s Report**

Gittleman asked for the Board’s thoughts about doing a strategic planning meeting. He referenced a February 8th email that Board Member Risseeuw sent asking whether this was something that should be done to help set the Board’s work plan for 2023. The consensus was that a strategic planning meeting is not necessary at this point, because the DMNA’s Neighborhoods 2020–2023 Work Plan is really the guide for this year’s work.

Lastly, he received confirmation that we’ll be able to hold our Annual Meeting on Monday, October 23rd at Mill City Museum (they’re donating the space) and we’ll have to use D’Amico Catering (<https://damicocatering.com/venues/mill-city-museum/>). He wants us to put on an event similar to what the North Loop Neighborhood Association did (<https://northloop.org/event/north-loop-annual-meeting-at-the-fillmore/>).

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Sweet moved and Tamburino seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary