

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023**

*Via Zoom*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wPENwLa5di76BSh3hYlMg\\_Jq9yk1O9pdb26H\\_7dYZhm5woNEYq6CmswYV7mAe8.Bhijn\\_dYzCaQLbkMS](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/wPENwLa5di76BSh3hYlMg_Jq9yk1O9pdb26H_7dYZhm5woNEYq6CmswYV7mAe8.Bhijn_dYzCaQLbkMS)

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**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  
Abby Larson  
Pam McCrea, Vice Chair  
Carletta Sweet, Secretary  
Isaac Risseeuw  
Joe Tamburino  
Dianne Walsh

Board Member Danielle Eisenbacher was absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Howard Cohen, DMNA Safety & Security Committee	Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide
Kelly Fischer, Rethos	Susan Traul, DMNA Civic Engagement Committee
Brody Honkanen, IncredibleBank	Maddy Levine-Wolf
Lindsey Lemire	Shane Zahn, Minneapolis DID
Ange Hwang, Asian Media Access	

**II. Consideration of Agenda**

Gittleman presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

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

**III. Pan Asian Arts Alliance Neighborhoods 2020 Partnership Grant Application**

Ange Hwang, Executive Director of Asian Media Access (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ange-hwang-4105425/>; <https://goldhouse.org/people/ange-hwang/>), explained the PAAA (<https://sites.google.com/amamedia.org/panasianartsalliance/about>) is working together to share their Pan Asian arts and culture with environmental conscious themes with the public. They have created a dance drama called *Between Water and Cloud* that will take place outdoors at Peavey Plaza on International Children's Day, Thursday, June 1st (<https://www.phoenixchinesedance.org/upcomingevents>). They are seeking our endorsement of the \$50,000 financial support provided through the City's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department's Partnership Grant (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/neighborhood-programs/partnership-fund/>).

The PAAA has served diverse Asian American and Pacific Islanders since 2003, with more than 20,000+ audiences and 300+ young dancers annually and supported different AAPI performing arts. They strive to engage individuals and diverse communities in appreciation of Pan Asian Performing Arts (traditional and modern) through preservation, education, and performances.

Between Water and Clouds is a good candidate for the Partnership Grant for the following reasons:

- **Cultural Enrichment.** The event will enhance the downtown community's cultural diversity and provide opportunities for community members to learn about the history and traditions of the Asian American community.
- **Community Engagement.** The event will open up the opportunity for new partnerships with organizations doing complementary work with our hard-to-reach populations such as renters, the BIPOC community, people living below the poverty line or transitioning out of homelessness, millennials, people living with disabilities, and families.
- **Sense of Community.** The event will activate a public space and create a sense of vitality and vibrancy in the neighborhood. When there are people out and about, it can help deter crime and improve safety. A livelier neighborhood can create a more welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors.
- **Economic Impact.** The event will bring economic benefit to the neighborhood through increased business activity on the night of the event.

*Sweet moved and Larson seconded a motion to provide a letter of support for the Pan Asian Arts Alliance Partnership Grant application. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed.*

#### IV. 2023 Street Outreach Update

Shane Zahn, Director of Safety Initiatives from the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District, thanked the Board again for providing funds to support last year's Street Outreach work, including the county social worker and MAD DADS. He highlighted this year's strategies, which will continue to include the county social worker but with the addition of one more, MAD DADS, We Push for Peace, the Ambassadors, and YouthLink. He noted that the funds that the DMNA contributed for 2023 will primarily support MAD DADS. He stated that the total cost of the MAD DADS contract for 2023 is \$250,000. The DMNA contribution to this is \$42,000.

For more information on the DID's Safety Initiatives, please visit <https://www.mplsdid.com/page/show/7164033-did-safety-initiatives>.

#### V. Ward 3 Update

In the absence of Council Member Michael Rainville, his Senior Policy Aide Ryan SanCartier reported on the following:

- A. **2nd Street Resurfacing Project.** SanCartier stated that there is an updated proposal ready, but he does not have a copy to share with the Board right now. Minneapolis Public Works will unveil the new plan at the public open house, which is tomorrow, Tuesday, March 21st at the Depot, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. He did say that they have listened to the public's concerns and made changes to the original plan. Gittleman and Tamburino expressed disappointment that the plan was not available to share with the neighborhood association prior to the public meeting.

For more information on the 2nd Street Resurfacing Project, please visit <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/2nd-st-resurfacing/>.

**B. The 2023 Scooter Share Program.** No update was available regarding the scooter share program. More information is coming next month.

## **VI. Doors Open Minneapolis Update**

Kelly Fischer, Heritage Tourism Manager at Rethos (<https://reusemn.org/blog/12710058>), provided an update on the free weeklong event scheduled for May 13th and 14th (<https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/>). She stated that it's a chance to explore the buildings that tell our city's story, from theaters to business hubs, sacred spaces to private clubs, sports complexes to engineering wonders, historical gems to not-even-open-yet buildings. Some of the venues open during this year's event include The Dayton's Project, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Peavey Plaza, Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, Xcel Energy Nicollet Island Power Plant, and so many more special places.

Fischer explained that Rethos coordinates the event in partnership with Doors Open Minneapolis Founder Scott Mayer (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-mayer-a511693/>), the City of Minneapolis, the American Institute of Architects, and many more important local organizations. She noted that with the event just a few months away, they are eager to find volunteers to greet visitors at participating venues and provide a fun and engaging experience for all.

- Volunteer shifts are four hours long (9:30 – 1:30 & 1:30 – 5:30). We are allowed to sign up for more than one shift and encouraged to sign up with a friend!
- We will receive a free Doors Open t-shirt and a “first priority” sticker that allows us to skip lines to visit other venues during the event!
- We will be required to attend a 90-minute training to prep for volunteering at Doors Open Minneapolis. There will be five different opportunities to attend this training.

We can sign up to volunteers at Hands On Twin Cities at

[https://handsontwincities.galaxydigital.com/need/index?agency\\_id=94996](https://handsontwincities.galaxydigital.com/need/index?agency_id=94996).

For more information on Doors Open Minneapolis, please visit <https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/>.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

*Bishop moved and Larson seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the February 27th Board meeting minutes; the F2023 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending February 28, 2023; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for February (Invoice #098). The motion passed.*

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

**A. Land Use.** Board liaison McCrea reported on the following projects from the March 14th meeting

([https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RVVwPvMDG9\\_Qc\\_08JvFzmlhhBLEHsa20KG3g42x\\_euvklEW5mPHYyaLV1IJo\\_m9t2.UkmSy4lZNTGwa3WU:%20](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RVVwPvMDG9_Qc_08JvFzmlhhBLEHsa20KG3g42x_euvklEW5mPHYyaLV1IJo_m9t2.UkmSy4lZNTGwa3WU:%20); Passcode: rBDp=r4+):

- **Red Lake Nation College.** President Dan King provided an update on their 2-year community college for Natives redevelopment project. They are moving forward with

construction despite the access challenges created by the Kharbanda family necessitating placing a mobile tower crane over the right-of-way in the exit lane.

- **FRGMNT Coffee On Sale Beer and Wine Liquor License With Limited Live Entertainment.** Laura Boyd from Alcohol Compliance Services, explained that owners, Sarah Roehl and Ben Banse, will locate FRGMNT in the former Conexion space on the first level of Open Book. They plan to offer beer and wine options in addition to coffee. Roehl and Banse are experienced coffee shop owners. This will be their fourth location. Their first location opened in the Nordic building in the North Loop. They also have locations in St. Anthony Main and Eden Prairie. Roehl stated that the new location will showcase the company's line-up of more than 30 roaster partnerships from across the globe, with rotating espresso and coffee offerings as well as grab-and-go food, baked goods from Honey & Rye and FRGMNT. She indicated that they plan to open in April.

The LUC recommended a letter of support for this liquor license application.

*McCrea moved and Sweet second a motion to support FRGMNT's liquor license application. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed.*

- B. Safety and Security.** Chair Howard Cohen reported that the committee meets tomorrow, March 21st at 3:00 p.m. He highlighted a following agenda items:

- Implementation of the bike patrol (the Board voted at the February 27th meeting to continue the program again in 2023 and there's already \$15,000 allocated for this project);
- Fusus (<https://www.fusus.com/fusus-fags#>) discussion lead by Shane Zahn; and
- Security summit discussion.

They'll be reaching out to other groups within the DMNA footprint to determine how they can collaborate and then they'll return to the DMNA with a proposal on how to implement.

Larson inquired about the daily activity report template that she shared during last year's bike patrol. McCrea stated that the officers did write a report after each bike patrol shift. Council Member Rainville had the reports, but they have been misplaced. Bishop inquired about the possibility of having a computer available in the substation office for the officers to type up their reports.

- C. Civic Engagement.** In lieu of Susan Traul who couldn't attend last Tuesday's meeting, Board liaison Isaac Risseuw reported on the following:

- DID presented on Service Saturdays, and the event will kick off on Earth Day on April 22nd and continue one Saturday per month through October.
- Discussed ideas to incentivize volunteers such as gift cards to local businesses.
- Edwin Lorenzo is focusing on skyway access and hours and following up on the Building Operators and Managers Association meeting.
- Susan is working on a City Council Candidates Forums for the week of September 18th in collaboration with the NLNA.
- Collaborating with FirstService Residential on National Night Out events happening later this summer.

- A sub-group of the committee has inventoried the DMNA branded items and is determining whether additional items should be purchased.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 11th at 5 p.m., via Zoom.

**D. Historic Signage.** Committee Chair Dianne Walsh reported that the committee has worked with 26 different building owners this year and gotten approval from 20-23 to put signs on their buildings; there’s been some difficulties with corporate decisions. Everyone is working hard on the histories.

The next Historic Signage Committee meeting is on April 17th at 7 p.m., at the Bridgewater.

**IX. President’s Report**

Gittleman advised last year they raised \$80,000-\$90,000 towards National Night Out and some of the funds were diverted for other things. New Board member Danielle Eisenbacher agreed to serve on this fundraising effort with him and since that time she has not been to one Board meeting. She has chosen not to participate in the DMNA in any way and she hasn’t officially resigned. He would like to take Board action for her removal and try to recruit someone who is willing to work on the committees particularly on fundraising.

After Hantge read the Bylaws, it was deemed Eisenbacher has vacated her seat and once she receives input from the Board, she’ll take steps to fill the vacancy as soon possible.

**X. New / Old / Other Business**

- **Annual Meeting.** Gittleman wants us to have a great annual meeting, so he checked out NLNA’s event this, and went to The Depot as well as the Mill City Museum to get proposals. Since FirstService Residential manages the Mill City Museum building and he knows the manager well, they agreed to donate the space but we have to use D’Amico for all food and beverage services. He is submitting for approval his proposal based on 200 people (about double last year), and is hoping we can work on a plan as part of the Civic Engagement effort to attract people to this important event. During discussion, Gittleman committed to raising the funds privately to cover the cost of the food, beverages, and miscellaneous services.

*Tamburino moved and McCrea seconded a motion to approve the food and beverage proposal from D’Amico for the 2023 Annual Meeting at the Mill City Museum. Gittleman called for discussion. The motion passed.*

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Secretary