

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, April 17, 2023
Via Zoom

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

Treasurer Abby Larson was absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Steve Arnold, Legacy Condos	Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Policy Aide
Howard Cohen, DMNA Safety & Security Committee	Mary Suilmann
Rick Crispino	Laura Tiano, DMNA Safety & Security Committee
David Hewitt, Hennepin County	Susan Traul, DMNA Civic Engagement Committee
Brody Honkanen, IncredibleBank	Regina Wagner, Hennepin County
Randy Manthey, Carlyle Condos	Emma Wenger
Ward 3 Council Member Michael Rainville	

II. Consideration of Agenda

Gittleman presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

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

III. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Michael Rainville reported on the following:

A. The 2023 Scooter Share Program. Council Member Rainville reported that he just got off the phone with MPRB Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer (<https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/about-us/leadership-and-structure/park-board-commissioners/commissioner-elizabeth-shaffer/>) and they have

reduced the number of scooter company contracts from five to three, reduced the number of scooters that can be placed downtown, and he'll be personally working with the scooter companies to reduce the number of scooters that can be placed at the Stone Arch Bridge. The new contract also has an educational component to outreach to users. Rainville believes they can work around the satellite signal interference from the tall buildings so that the geofencing can be placed along the entirety of 2nd Street or along River Road through the Mill District. The best news is that the City has a new staff person overseeing the program, Dillon Fried (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dillon-fried-capp-29932a49/>), so he's hopeful this year's Scooter Share Program will run more smoothly. Then he offered to host a Mill District town hall on scooters and bike rentals.

- B. Next Ward 3 Public Safety Forum.** He is hosting a public safety meeting with the new Metro Transit Police Chief Ernest Morales III (<https://www.metrotransit.org/who-we-are>) on May 8, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at The Depot Renaissance Hotel (<https://www.thedmna.org/event/ward-3-metro-transit-public-forum-on-may-8-from-6-pm-to-8-pm-at-the-depot/>). He also invited District 7 Commissioner Robert Lilligren (<https://metro council.org/About-Us/Who-We-Are/CouncilMembers/District-7-Robert-Lilligren.aspx>) to attend.
- C. 2nd Street Resurfacing Project.** He reported that this project (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/2nd-st-resurfacing/>) is going forward and last week there was a meeting held to do outreach about assessments (<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/property-housing/property-values-taxes/special-assessments/public-hearings-assessments/>; <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Calendar/all/monthly>). They're looking to start this by September so that it's done before winter.
- D. New Minneapolis Health Commissioner.** Damōn Chaplin has been appointed the City's next Health Commissioner by Mayor Jacob Frey (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2023/january/health-commissioner/>; <https://www.startribune.com/jacob-frey-taps-damon-chaplin-minneapolis-health-commissioner-after-gretchen-musicant-retirement/600247808/?refresh=true>).

In addition to the above items, Rainville reported that the MPRB will be installing lighting on River Road this summer; the Gold Medal Park Conservancy will also be adding lighting and installing signage regarding park rules this summer; and the Guthrie Theater is installing a perimeter fence around its parking lot and adding more lighting.

Upon concluding his update, Rainville responded to questions from the Board and meeting attendees. Gittleman inquired about the 1st Street Resurfacing Project in front of RiverWest. He stated that it was being done in conjunction with the 2nd Street Project. He has been communicating with the HOA at RiverWest. Bishop and LUC member Randy Manthey inquired about the percentage of total scooters that will be distributed in the downtown community. Rainville did not have an exact number, but he estimated 34%. Bishop suggested that the scooters should be deactivated earlier than what the contract allows to prevent joyriding in the Mill District at night. McCrea thanked Rainville for organizing the Metro Transit Public Safety Forum on May 8th.

IV. Federal Plaza Housing Conversion Update. David Hewitt, Director of Housing Stability for Hennepin County (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/david-hewitt-3215576/>), and Regina Wagner, Director of Economic Supports, Child Support and Well-Being (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/reggie-regina-wagner-605b4811/>), provided an updated on the Federal Plaza housing conversion project. They requested to meet with the DMNA to explain some temporary changes to the original plan. As a reminder, Hennepin County acquired the former luMinn Hotel in 2022 with the plan to convert it into housing for people who make below 30% of the area median income. The luMinn is one of several hotels that the County has purchased for this purpose.

Hewitt stated that while the long-term plan for the Federal Plaza property is to house vulnerable adults who make less than 30% of the AMI, in the short-term, they would like to use the property to shelter families who are facing eviction due to the end of the temporary national moratorium on evictions for nonpayment of rent. Hewitt noted that there is a shortage of affordable housing options for families, particularly mothers with children. He further explained that Hennepin County guarantees housing for families with children. Federal Plaza would function similarly as People Serving People and Haven Housing, providing emergency shelter and supportive services.

Hewitt indicated that the families would stay in the Federal Plaza property for approximately two to three months, until Hennepin County can find them a more permanent option. Hewitt suggested that the timeframe for using Federal Plaza for this purpose is estimated at 18 months. Hewitt then introduced Regina Wagner who talked about staffing at Federal Plaza.

Wagner stated that there would be someone on staff at the Federal Plaza site 24/7. She also indicated there would be security on site. There will be a screen process for tenants. She noted that residents would receive supportive services from Hennepin County. Hennepin County will do an assessment of families to determine all of their immediate needs. She also stated that Hennepin County is contracting for food and housekeeping services. Hennepin County provides these services at no cost to residents.

Upon concluding their update, Hewitt and Wagner responded to questions from the Board. McCrea inquired about whether families can have guests. Wagner said no. McCrea asked whether there is a residency requirement for tenants. Wagner stated that Hennepin County must be the county of financial responsibility for the family. Tamburino asked if Hennepin County keeps statistics on families that are accessing its services, and if they know how many people they assist from out of state. Hewitt said yes, but that he does not have an exact number.

Hewitt and Wagner thanked the DMNA for its support of the Federal Plaza Housing Conversion project. They will come back and provide periodic updates on the property if requested.

V. Consent Agenda

Bishop moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the March 20th Board meeting minutes; the F2023 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending March 31, 2023; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for March (Invoice #099). The motion passed.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Land Use.** The Land Use Committee did not meet in April and the next meeting will be on May 2nd.
- B. Safety and Security.** In the absence of Chair Howard Cohen, Board liaison Jim Bishop reported on the following:

- **Bike Patrol.** They have put some closure on this issue.
- **FUSUS.** The committee is studying the FUSUS video surveillance system in the downtown community. A subcommittee is meeting with the Minneapolis Emergency Operations Center on April 21st to learn more and find out if it might be possible to expand the system and if the DMNA could play a role in doing so.
- **Security Summit.** The committee is continuing to explore the possibility of hosting a Security Summit that brings together downtown organizations and public officials to discuss coordinated activities that could address common safety and security concerns.

- C. Civic Engagement.** In the absence of Chair Susan Traul, Board liaison Isaac Risseuw reported on the following:

- Hantge has been helpful in gathering information for a mailer to downtown residents that will include a list of all DMNA events through the October annual meeting, as well as a call for action to volunteer.
- They've been working on give-away items to be ready for all the engagement events throughout the summer.
- Abbie and Lorenzo have been promoting the Service Saturday event that will take place on Earth Day, April 22nd.
- The committee would like to purchase up to \$500 gift cards to downtown coffee shops for volunteer incentives for future Service Saturday events. Hantge noted that City funds cannot purchase gift cards. We would have to use unrestricted funds raised for last year's NNO event.

Sweet moved and Walsh seconded a motion to spend up to \$500 on fifty \$10 gift cards as incentives for volunteers who participate in the Service Saturday events.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 9th at 5 p.m., via Zoom.

- D. Historic Signage.** Walsh reported that committee members continue to do research on the 20 plus buildings that they are creating signage for this year. She said that this is a very enthusiastic group of people and they are interested in doing research on more buildings in 2024. She asked if there was enough money to do another round of signs. According to Hantge, at this point, there is plenty of money in the contract to do at least another 10 signs in 2024, possibly more.

VII. President's Report

Gittleman provided a brief update on the 2023 National Night Out event that will take place on Tuesday, August 1st (<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/nno/>) at The Commons. He stated that he has an internal committee of FS Residential employees who are helping coordinate much of the logistics, but that they will work with a subcommittee of Civic Engagement volunteers. He noted that the event will look very similar to last year, including the music and food.

VIII. New / Old / Other Business

A. Community Book Read. Hantge presented a proposal to host a community book read in 2023 as a DEI strategy. She explained that a community-wide read is a shared reading experience where members of the community all read and discuss one book. It can build community across ages, socioeconomic levels, and various backgrounds. She has been in conversations with Mary Taris, owner of Strive Publishing (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mary-taris-strive-publishing/>), a BIPOC bookstore currently located in the IDS Center that will open a second store on the Nicollet Mall in June. Taris is excited about the idea and is helping identify a potential book and BIPOC author. One suggestion was local author Louise Erdrich (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louise_Erdrich). The hope would be to have the book read conclude with a meet and greet, book signing event with the author. Hantge stated that she would like to use some of the unallocated Equitable Engagement Fund dollars to help write-down the cost of the books for participants, and to print bookplates for the inside of all the books with the DMNA logo, website and email address.

Walsh moved and Risseeuw seconded a motion to approve spending up to \$2,500 in Equitable Engagement Funds on the Community Book Read. Gittleman called for further discussion. The motion passed.

For more information on what a Community Book Read is, visit <https://commonreads.com/community-reads-resources/>.

B. Vacant Board Seat. Hantge reported that there have been three inquiries from people interested in the vacant Board seat. One person who actually lives in Loring Park; someone who works for the YMCA; and Steve Arnold (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-arnold-/>), a former member of the DMNA's HOA Advisory Group. Arnold, who was attending the instant Board meeting, introduced himself. He said he continues to be interested in the position and wants to help make the downtown community a great place to live.

Sweet moved and McCrea seconded a motion to appoint Steve Arnold to fill the vacant Board seat until the next Board election at the Annual Meeting on October 23, 2023. Gittleman called for further discussion. The motion passed.

C. You Are On Native Lands Project. McCrea advised she's working on a committee — the Guthrie Theater, the Native Advisory Council (<https://www.guthrietheater.org/about-us/native-advisory->

[council/](#)), and Friends of the Falls — to put additional signs throughout the Mill District neighborhood. The signs are a product of a Native artist and five tribes that are being printed now, and there will be an installation ceremony held on Friday, June 16th. She would like for us to read, understand, and support the land acknowledgement found on the DMNA webpage (<https://www.thedmna.org/native-lands-project/>).

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair

Secretary