

**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/rCdZ8Wg7qH4TQCAs3pbdWdCOIAVDsSNHGSEsrIWxtrDV3idzPbGsBvhUYAMQKZ-t.pIpOjyHQ8X5epRyS>

**Passcode: \$9y%\$Rg\$**

**I. Call to Order**

President Andy Gittleman called the Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Steve Arnold

Jim Bishop

Abby Larson, Treasurer

Pam McCrea, Vice Chair

Carletta Sweet, Secretary

Isaac Risseeuw

Joe Tamburino and Dianne Walsh were absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Steve Arnold, Legacy Condos

Wendy Rubinyi, Bridgewater

Brody Honkanen, IncredibleBank

Ryan SanCartier, Ward 3 Senior Policy Aide

Jordan Kocak, Hennepin County Public Works

Laura Tiano, DMNA Safety & Security

Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Council Member

Susan Traul, DMNA Civic Engagement

Mark Rausch, Minneapolis Downtown Council

Committee

**II. Consideration of Agenda**

Gittleman presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

*Sweet 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:

- The City is working to address the homeless encampment on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' property behind Gold Medal Park.
- He is planning to have a conversation with DMNA Land Use Committee member Randy Manthey regarding the current scooter contracts and possible ways to enhance them for 2024.
- He had a meeting with residents at RiverWest to talk about pedestrian safety concerns on 1st Street.

- Mill District Safety Walks are taking place once a week now on Wednesday evenings.
- Working with the MPRB to enhance safety at the Stone Arch Bridge parking lots.
- Metro Transit Public Safety Forum on May 8th was successful.

Upon concluding his update, Council Member Rainville responded to questions and comments from the Board and meeting attendees. McCrea thanked him for his work on the encampment. She continues to be concerned about the hazardous materials generated by people living in the camp. Council Member Rainville said that he is in conversation with Minneapolis Public Health about the situation. Risseuw inquired about 4th of July fireworks. The City does not plan to have a show. There will be fireworks on July 22nd supported by the Minneapolis Aquatennial. Mark Raush from the Minneapolis Downtown Council will review the plan during his update.

#### **IV. Aquatennial Fireworks Update**

Mark Raush, Director of Operations at the Minneapolis Downtown Council (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/markrausch1/>) provided an update on the plans for the Minneapolis Aquatennial (<https://www.aquatennial.com/>) scheduled to take place July 19-22, 2023. The CenterPoint Energy Torchlight Parade will take place on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 and the Target Fireworks will take place on Saturday, July 22, 2023. The fireworks will start at 10 p.m., along the Minneapolis Riverfront and will cause the closure of West River Parkway and the Stone Arch Bridge on Friday and Saturday. The MDC will communicate with the residential buildings that are most impacted by street closures and detours. Everything should reopen by 12 a.m. on July 23.

Rainville added that the Taste of Minnesota Festival will take on July 2nd and 3rd on Nicollet Mall (<https://mspmag.com/eat-and-drink/foodie/taste-of-minnesota-returns-for-2023/>).

#### **V. Park and Portland Repaving Project Update**

Jordan Kocak, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator at Hennepin County (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jordankocak/>) explained that Hennepin County is repaving Park Avenue (County Road 33) and Portland Avenue (County Road 35) between Washington Avenue South and East 17th Street at Interstate 94 (<https://www.hennepin.us/residents/transportation/park-portland>) and as part of the repaving project, Hennepin County is evaluating ways to improve comfort and safety for all people traveling along the corridor. Other updates being considered include:

- Reconstructing curb ramps to be more accessible and easier to use, compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- Reducing the number of travel lanes on each road from three to two and narrowing the widths of the lanes to discourage speeding;
- Shortening crossing distances to improve crossing safety for people walking and rolling;
- Adding buffer space between bike lanes, parked vehicles and moving traffic to enhance safety for bikers.

Kocak noted that Hennepin County expects to complete design work by this summer and make the improvements during the 2024 construction season. Projects like this typically begin with intersection work, then pavement work and finish with restriping.

## VI. Consent Agenda

*Sweet moved and Larson seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the April 17th Board meeting minutes; the F2023 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending April 30, 2023; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for May (Invoice #100). The motion passed.*

## VII. Committee Reports

**A. Land Use.** In the absence of LUC Chair Kevin Frazell, Pamela McCrea reported on the following projects presented on May 2nd:

- **Metro F Line Update.** Nassar Mussa from Metro Transit provided an update on the Metro F Bus Line (<https://www.metrotransit.org/f-line-project>). Mussa explained that the METRO F Line is a planned bus rapid transit line that will provide faster and more reliable transit service in the Route 10 corridor between downtown Minneapolis and Northtown Transit Center along Nicollet Mall, Central Avenue, 53rd Avenue, and University Avenue. The F Line will be the region's sixth arterial BRT line. Bus rapid transit is a package of transit enhancements that adds up to a faster trip and an improved experience on Metro Transit's busiest bus routes. Mussa reviewed the proposed Corridor Plan, which identifies station locations. He noted that Metro Transit is taking comments on the proposed plan until May 14th. Metro Transit staff will then review the comments received, incorporate them into an F Line Final Corridor Plan, and begin the Metropolitan Council approval process. Council approval of the Final Corridor Plan is expected in July 2023. Mussa stated that upon completion and approval, the Final Corridor Plan will identify the final planned locations for F Line stations in advance of project engineering (anticipated to begin in summer 2023).
- **Clay Oven On Sale Liquor License Application.** George Barr, President of Barr Construction (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/george-barr-a4175112/>), and co-owners and restaurateurs Diljit Khosa (<http://millcitytimes.com/news/small-business-spotlight-clay-oven.html>) and Balbir Singh presented the application. Khosa and Singh indicated they have experience operating restaurants throughout the Twin Cities with an India Cuisine theme, including India Palace located at 2546 Hennepin Avenue South in Uptown. They also have restaurants in Roseville, Burnsville, Edina, Woodbury, Plymouth, and Arden Hills. They stated that Clay Oven restaurant will offer wine and beer in addition to traditional soft drink beverages.

The LUC recommended approval of this liquor license application.

- **Neon Tiger at Public Domain Liquor License Application.** Geri Wolf, from LNT0, LLC, along with the owners Stefan Van Voorst and Martin Collins presented the application. Ms. Wolf explained that the Public Domain at Neon Tiger is locating in the former Haute Dish space (<https://northloop.org/former-haute-dish-space-will-become-craft-cocktail-bar/>). She said they will have a causal menu and noted that they have a long history in the food and beverage

industry, including employment and/or ownership at several restaurants and bars in the Twin Cities and out of state. Both Mr. Van Voorst and Mr. Collins stated that they are excited to reactivate the vacant space.

The LUC recommended approval of this liquor license application.

- **Milly's Wine Bar Outdoor Patio application.** Owner Brandon Witzel presented the application. He is seeking to put a small patio off the back of the business for the summer months. The size of the patio is 400 square feet and it will hold five tables and 20 chairs. Hours of operation are seven days a week, from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. They plan to put up a fence.

The LUC recommended approval of the patio expansion application.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 6th at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom.

- B. Safety and Security.** In the absence of Chair Howard Cohen, Laura Tiano reported on the following:

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 13th at 3:30 p.m., at the Carlyle Condominiums.

- C. Civic Engagement.** Chair Susan Traul reported on the following:

- **Events Mailer.** Currently at the printer. Should go out within the next 10 days to residents in the downtown zip codes.
- **Service Saturdays.** Abby and Lorenzo continue to work on the Service Saturday events that take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. They are moving back the May Service Saturday to June 3, due to the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Abby received an inquiry from Verizon Wireless about sponsoring Service Saturdays in exchange for letting them distribute informational flyers. The board decided that they would like to steer clear of this kind of sponsorship, but Verizon could have a booth at the NNO event on August 1.

The next committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 13th at 5 p.m., via Zoom.

- D. Historic Signage.** No report.

## **VIII. President's Report**

Gittleman did not have a report this month.

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

- A. DMNA Vinyl Stickers.** Risseeuw presented a request to purchase 1500 DMNA branded vinyl stickers. 500 each of stickers designed to look like the Downtown East and Downtown West neighborhood boundary signs and 500 of the DMNA rectangular logo. He stated that the Civic Engagement Committee will give away the stickers at DMNA events and activities. It will help spread the DMNA name and brand.

*Larson moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve spending up to \$600 in Equitable Engagement Funds on DMNA vinyl stickers. Gittleman called for further discussion. The motion passed.*

- B. Rental Building Ambassador Program.** Hantge presented a proposal to establish a Rental Building Ambassador Program. The goal of the program is twofold: to increase participation of renters in DMNA activities and to get more renter involvement on the Civic Engagement Committee.

Hantge explained that Building Ambassadors would do the following:

- Participate on the Civic Engagement Committee
- Invite their neighbors to connect with the DMNA
- Help host a building “happy hour” in partnership with members of the DMNA Civic Engagement Committee
- Handout neighborhood welcome packets to new residents
- Pass along news
- Share events
- Participate at least six months
- Stay in touch with us

Hantge stated that each ambassador or building can determine how to best connect with the people in their building. Getting the word out might mean forwarding an email, sharing a graphic to a Facebook group, putting up a flyer to a physical community board, in-person sharing at building events, making phone calls or sending texts, or knocking on doors.

Hantge suggested that the size and number of tenants in a building could determine the number of building ambassadors. Goal would be to have one individual from each rental property in the area who are willing to regularly connect with those in their building to share Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association events and activities, news, and other neighborhood happenings.

Hantge recommends that Building Ambassadors receive a small stipend (\$100) for participating in this program as an incentive to remain engaged for a minimum of one year’s time. There would be an application process. The program would be promoted via the weekly e-newsletter and to rental building managers. Managers are not eligible. Only renters.

Upon concluding her presentation regarding the new program, Hantge responded to questions. McCrea inquired about the stipend, noting that board and other committee members are not

paid for their time. Hantge stated that this is an incentive to get more renters involved and that it is an eligible expense for the DMNA's Equitable Engagement Funds that it receives from the City.

After questions and discussion,

*Risseuw moved and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the Rental Building Ambassador Program. Gittleman called for further discussion. The motion passed.*

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary