

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024

Via Zoom

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I. Call to Order

President Dianne Walsh called the Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Jim Bishop
Dan Brophy
Kristen Hansen
Abby Larson, Treasurer
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Latonya Reeves

Board members Steve Arnold and Vice President Isaac Risseuw were absent.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Council Member Katie Cashman, Ward 7
Adam Duinick, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Meghan Gustafson, Minneapolis Downtown Council
Brandon Miranda
Council Member Michael Rainville, Ward 3
Kathryn Reali, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District
Laurie Rice, DMNA Land Use Committee
Patrick Sadler, Ward 3 Policy Aide
Alex Wishon

II. Consideration of Agenda

Walsh presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

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

III. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Rainville reported on the following:

- Warehouse District historic signage project in partnership with the DMNA Historic Signage Committee.
- Warehouse Live funding has been increased for 2024. In 2023, it proved to be a successful crime prevention strategy.

- The Somali elders will provide safety patrols in the Mill District/Stone Arch Bridge Riverfront area again this summer. They will also patrol The Commons. CM Rainville is interested in using the DMNA's Police Substation as a hub for this group. Abby Larson will connect him with the appropriate staff people at Sherman Associates to make sure this can happen.
- Scooter licenses have been approved. They are going to get a handle on joy-riding this season.
- The MPRB Red, White, and Boom Fireworks is returning to the Minneapolis Riverfront on July 4.
- Hoping to raise funds through a variety of sources to install a permanent LED screen at The Commons.

Upon concluding his update, Council Member Rainville responded to questions. President Walsh inquired about the Uber / Lyft situation and the possibility that they may leave the city of Minneapolis by May 1. She noted that many people, including seniors and the disabled rely on these services because they feel more comfortable than using Metro Transit. Council Member Rainville said he opposed the ordinance requiring higher pay for ride share drivers. He thought there were better ways to accomplish what they were trying to do. He noted that the Governor and the State Legislature are working on a possible solution.

IV. Ward 7 Update

Council Member Cashman reported on the following:

- Talking with Skyway owners about establishing uniform hours. She is exploring the possibility of offering tax credits to building owners to incentivize them to connect office to residential buildings.
- Working on a plan to address vacant commercial space in many ground floor and Skyway spaces across the downtown community.
- The Cowles Center for Dance and Performing Arts announced it will cease operations at its Goodale Theater on Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis after March 31, cutting the 2023-2024 season short by two months. The City will fund the maintenance of the building until a new operator can be found.
- Exploring the idea of a Tourism Improvement District with Meet Minneapolis.
<https://www.minneapolis.org/about-us/destination-transformation-2030/>.
- Hoping to expand zero-waste initiatives to include composting in residential buildings/
<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/zero-waste/>

Upon concluding her update, Council Member Cashman commented on the Uber / Lyft ride share driver pay ordinance. She stated that she supported it because she believes everyone should be paid a livable minimum wage. She did state that she is open to compromise and is watching the discussions at the State Legislature. In the meantime, they are looking for alternative ride share companies to come into the market. There are several different options. They are also talking with Metro Transit and Metro Mobility about the possibility of providing reduced fares or free fares for certain demographic groups.

V. Minneapolis Downtown Council 2035 Plan Update

Adam Duinck, the new President and CEO of the Minneapolis Downtown Council, and Kathryn Reali, the Chief Operating Officer at the Downtown Improvement District, provided an update on the 2035 Plan. Mr. Duinck and Ms. Reali thanked the DMNA Board for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Duinck stated that the 2035 Plan charts the MDC’s vision for the next 10 years. They plan to reimagine the future of the downtown community, which will look different than it did 10 years ago when the 2025 Plan was created. Goals include getting people back to work in the office buildings. Converting vacant office space to residential units. Changing people’s perceptions of safety. Making the Nicollet Mall a fully pedestrian, world-class mall. Creating more connections and synergy with the neighborhood organizations. Upon concluding their update, they responded to questions. President Walsh inquired about the possibility of expanding the DID further into Downtown East / Mill District. Ms. Reali stated that they are looking into their options. They would need to gain the support of the condo associations, since the DID is a taxing district.

For a quick summary of the Minneapolis Downtown Council’s 2035 plan, watch this KSTP story: <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/minneapolis-downtown-council-reimagining-the-heart-of-the-city/>

To review the current 2025 Plan, visit: <https://www.mplsdowntown.com/2025-plan-2/>.

VI. Minneapolis Downtown Council 2024 Pianos on Parade Update

Meghan Gustafson from the Minneapolis Downtown Council provided an update on the 2024 Pianos on Parade program. She thanked the DMNA for their support for the program since 2018. She is seeking a contribution from the DMNA again this year. Gustafson noted that each piano is painted by local artists with a downtown Minneapolis theme. Artist collaborations this summer include FAIR School, De La Salle High School, Kulture Klub Collaborative, Modern Day Me, Choices, Inc., and individual local artists. Pianos on Parade offers fun and exciting musical performances throughout our downtown community, ranging from music students to prominent local musicians like Kerri Noble, Mark Mallman, The Voice contestant Nicholas David, MN Music Hall of Famer Lorie Line and more. She noted that the pianos also encourage impromptu performances by downtown residents, employees, and visitors. It is a great community building, as well as a crime prevention strategy. She stated that since the Stone Arch Bridge will be undergoing repairs, the DMNA could sponsor the piano at The Commons.

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

VII. Doors Open 2024 Update

Kelly Fischer and Leighton Sundberg from Rethos provided an update on the 2024 Doors Open event, which is scheduled for May 18 and 19. Doors Open Minneapolis is produced by Rethos in partnership with the City of Minneapolis. It gives participants the chance to explore the buildings that tell the 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, Doors Open Minneapolis provides a FREE behind-the-scenes look at dozens of exciting venues. Building owners and caretakers will provide unique perspectives that illustrate why these venues, people, and businesses, are central to our city’s

identity. There are over 100 buildings on this year's tour. They need more volunteers to staff the venues.

For more information on the 2024 Doors Open venues, please visit:

<https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/venues-2024>

If you would like to volunteer with event, please visit:

<https://www.doorsopenminneapolis.org/volunteer>.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Bishop moved, and Reeves seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the February 26th Board meeting minutes; the F2024 Budget vs. Actual for the periods February 29th, 2024; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for February (Invoice #110). The motion passed.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Land Use Committee. Committee Chair Laurie Rice reported on the following:

- Received an update from Shane Stenzel with the MPRB regarding Summer Programming at The Commons. He also reviewed safety and security strategies that they plan to implement.
- Received an update on the Stone Arch Bridge Rehabilitation Project. The MNDOT project does not include updating the pedestrian lighting on the bridge deck or repaving the pedestrian surface; however, the MPRB responded to Hantge's email about the damaged lights and has made the necessary repairs. They plan to evaluate the pedestrian surface of the bridge deck and look at incorporating that into future work.
- Reviewed and recommended approval of a liquor license application for Peppermint Hippo. The nightclub will be located at 251 3rd Avenue South on the second floor of the building. The business will have a full menu, alcohol, as well as adult entertainment. There will be live entertainment Monday through Sunday. Business hours on Friday and Saturday are 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Business hours on Sunday through Thursday are 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. The owner indicated that there will be full food service available during all hours of operation. They intend to have dedicated safety and security personnel, including off-duty police officers. They will be clearly identifiable as security staff. Security staff will monitor the sidewalk and Skyway entrances to ensure that patrons are not loitering or disturbing adjacent properties. The LUC voted to recommend that the city approve the on-sale liquor license with Adult Entertainment for the Peppermint Hippo.

There was discussion by the board regarding the status of the Bazemnt liquor license application. The board had decided not to take any action on this liquor license application. Hantge indicated that they still have completed their license application; therefore, they have not appeared before the Business, Housing and Zoning Committee. The Peppermint

Hippo has not completed its application either. The owner still needs to have his safety and security plan reviewed and approved by the Minneapolis Police Department.

Reeves moved and Walsh seconded a motion to take no action on this item and to not submit a letter of support to the City. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

The next LUC meeting is on April 2, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

B. Safety and Security. In the absence of Committee Chair Howard Cohen, Board Liaison Jim Bishop reported the following:

- Several committee members are meeting with the HOA Advisory Group to talk about crime and safety issues and concerns.
- They are continuing to evaluate and discuss FUSUS and determining if there is an opportunity for residential buildings to participate. For more info on this crime and safety platform, please visit: <https://www.fusus.com/blog/press-release-minneapolis-police-department-to-activate-fusus-real-time-crime-center-platform>

Next committee meeting is April 1, at the Eleven Condo at 4:30 p.m.

C. Civic Engagement. Committee Chair Abby Larson reported on the following:

- The committee is meeting on March 19, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.
- The committee is focused on planning for the 2024 National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, at The Commons. They are seeking volunteers to help with the planning at this point.
- They are also working on planning upcoming Service Saturdays with the Minneapolis DID. The first one will take place in partnership with the MPRB for Earth Day on April 20.

Next April committee meeting date is TBD.

D. Historic Signage. Committee Chair Dianne Walsh reported on the following:

- The committee is working on 10 signs this year, primarily in the Warehouse District.

The next meeting of this committee is on May 2, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

X. New / Old / Other business

- **Pianos on Parade.** There was discussion regarding making a financial contribution to this year's event. Everyone agreed that it is a great community building program for the downtown community. Hantge provided information on what the DMNA has contributed in the past and the current status of Equitable Engagement Funds and NRP funds.

Larson moved and Brophy seconded a motion to allocate \$1750 to this year's Pianos on Parade program. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **Marketing and Promotions.** Dan Brophy inquired about the possibility of inviting a KARE 11 news reporter to a Safety and Security Committee meeting to highlight some of the positive things taking place in the downtown community to prevent crime and improve the perception of safety. The board felt like this would be a good idea as long as the DMNA's Communication Policy is adhered to.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair

Secretary