

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024

Via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bCA0W_hETGdOB3AX6bjvrc-PkBQtub-WAFQUbLikAtQKA8QThKHR9tWwras819oD.umFBvm1EmPkMxuDi?startTime=171382443 9000

Passcode: #A1Hp#m4

I. Call to Order

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

Other Board members in attendance were:

Steve Arnold
Jim Bishop
Dan Brophy
Kristen Hansen
Abby Larson, Treasurer
Carletta Sweet, Secretary
Latonya Reeves
Isaac Risseeuw, Vice President

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Howard Cohen
Ella Daniels, Mill City Farmers Market
Ella Graham, Minneapolis DID
Hannah James, Paisley Park Operations
Aileen Johnson, Downtown Safety Walks
Londell McMillan, Prince Legacy, LLC and Northstar Group
Laurie Rice, DMNA Land Use Committee
Patrick Sadler, Ward 3 Policy Aide
Charles Spicer
Jessica Sullivan Thomas
Ben Shardlow, Minneapolis DID
Sarah Tierney, Paisley Park Operations

II. Consideration of Agenda

Walsh presented the agenda which had no additions or changes.

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

III. Ward 3 Update

In the absence of Council Member Rainville, his aide Patrick Sadler reported on the following:

- Stone Arch Bridge closure started April 15 through the spring of 2025. More information at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stonearchbridge/index.html>

- 1st Avenue / Hennepin Avenue lane restrictions due to road construction. More information at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/projects/1st-ave-washington-ave-8th-st/>
- Capital Budget – public hearing on May 9
- Smart 911 is replacing the City’s alert system. More information at <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/contact-us/sign-up-for-news-alerts/>.
- Meet Minneapolis Tourism Survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MinneapolisEng>

IV. Mill City Farmers Market Update

Ella Daniels introduced herself as the new executive director for the Mill City Farmers Market. She took Martha Archer’s place. She noted that the market was founded in 2006 by farm to table chef Brenda Langton. They are a year-round market. They serve approximately 175,000 guests annually. Daniels then provided an update on the 2024 market.

- Outdoor season begins, Saturday, May 4
- Summer hours from May to October are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 115 rotating vendors: farmers, makers and artists
- New: Free weekly pilates class in May
- Free weekly yoga classes from June to September
- Live music / busking at the market entrances
- Every \$1 of SNAP/EBT benefits spent is matched by \$1 in Market Bucks + \$1 in Produce Market Bucks – up to \$10
- Zero Waste Volunteers

Daniels stated that the MCFM is seeking support from the DMNA again in 2024. They are seeking \$10,000 for 2024.

Hantge stated that if the board wants to support the MCFM again in 2024, it will need to do an NRP Plan Modification to move funds into the Arts, Culture and Education strategy. This requires a 21-day notice to the community.

Walsh thanked Graham for her presentation. The board will discuss the request later on the agenda under New Business.

V. DID Tree Watering Update

Ella Graham provided an update on the DID Tree Watering Program. She stated that in 2023, the DID watered a total of 80 trees, 56 in the DID boundaries and 24 outside of the boundaries, in the Mill District / Downtown East. Looking ahead to 2024, the DID is planning to water 122 trees, some that have not been planted yet. There are 93 trees in the DID boundaries, and 29, outside of the boundaries in the Mill District / Downtown East.

Graham stated that the DID is seeking financial support from the DMNA to help support watering the 53 trees outside of the DID boundaries. The cost is \$9 per tree. Watering will take place between June and October pending rainfall, approximately 20 weeks. The estimated tree watering

budget is \$9640. The alternative plan would be to reach out to residential buildings to find volunteers to water the trees.

Hantge stated that if the board wants to support the DID Tree Watering Program again in 2024, it will need to do an NRP Plan Modification to move funds into the Downtown Development strategy. This requires a 21-day notice to the community.

Walsh thanked Graham for her presentation. The board will discuss the request later on the agenda under New Business.

VI. Mill District Safety Walk Update

Aileen Johnson provided an update on the Mill District Safety Walks. They take place on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. Participants meet on the steps outside the Guthrie Theater. The walk is well attended, rain or shine. The Minneapolis Neighborhood Safety Clubs have a new website to share information: <https://www.mplsneighborhoodsafetyclubs.com/>

Upon concluding her presentation, Johnson responded to questions. Walsh inquired about how they measure the success of the safety walks. Johnson noted that they do not have any formal measurement tools, but she did say that the walks have helped boost the morale of the Minneapolis Police Department police officers and that the people who participate in the walks have developed new friendships and connections. Essentially, the walks help improve the sense of community across the city.

VII. Prince Celebration: Purple Rain 40 Anniversary Block Party Update

Londell McMillan from Prince Legacy, LLC and the Northstar Group provided an update on the Prince Celebration: Purple Rain 40th Anniversary Block Party scheduled for Saturday June 22nd, from 11:00 am-8:00 pm. He stated that this is an event hosted by Paisley Park Operations LLC located in Chanhassen. The Block Party will take place at the Prince Mural on the intersection of Hawthorne Ave/N 1st Avenue and N 8th Street/N 9th Street. They plan to have live music on-stage, food trucks community gathering and social space. There will be no alcohol served at this block party event.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Larson moved, and Sweet seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the March 25th Board meeting minutes; the F2024 Budget vs. Actual for the periods March 30th, 2024; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for March (Invoice #111). The motion passed.

IX. Committee Reports

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

- 1st Avenue North Construction Project update
- Lofton Hotel liquor license application

Walsh moved and Larson seconded a motion to approve the letter of support for the Lofton Hotel liquor license application. Walsh called for further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next LUC meeting is on May 7th, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

B. Safety and Security. Committee Chair Howard Cohen reported the following:

- Planning on a follow up event to the DMNA Safety Summit held last October. Working with Council Member Rainville and Aileen Johnson on this event.
- Developing a relationship with the HOA Advisory Group.
- Continuing to evaluate FUSUS.

Next committee meeting is April 22, at the Bridgewater Condos at 4:30 p.m.

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

- The committee is meeting on April 23, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.
- Continuing to work on planning the 2024 National Night Out celebration.
- Continuing to plan 2024 Service Saturday events with the DID.
- Neighborhood Day event at Gold Medal Park on May 11, 2024.

The May committee meeting is TBD.

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

- The committee is continuing to work on their historic narratives for their signs.

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

X. New / Old / Other business

A. NRP Housing Policy Update.

Hantge explained that current Minnesota State law requires neighborhoods to spend 70% of their NRP Phase 2 funding on housing related activities. After detailed research, both the Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) and Development Finance Division (DFD) of the Finance and Property Services Department have determined the program will meet the state law threshold of 52.5% of all NRP funding to be expended on housing related activities. Therefore, the NRP Policy Board has initiated a 45-day public comment period to receive feedback on removing this policy restriction.

Hantge is proposing that the DMNA submit this comment regarding the proposed change:

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA) fully supports the proposed update to the NRP Policy Board's Phase II Action Plan allocation requirements. This update would grant neighborhoods the ability to allocate remaining funds into an approved neighborhood strategy that best addresses the neighborhood's needs and opportunities. This forward-thinking adjustment represents a significant step towards enhancing community-driven development initiatives.

Allowing neighborhoods the flexibility to reallocate their remaining NRP housing funds into any approved neighborhood strategy is a game changer. This proposed change would empower the DMNA to direct resources where they are most needed. It also fosters a more dynamic and responsive approach to addressing community needs.

In summary, the DMNA believes that this proposed update to the NRP Policy Board's Phase II Action Plan allocation requirements aligns with our commitment to promoting inclusive and sustainable community development. We commend the decision-makers behind this proposed policy change for their dedication to empowering neighborhoods and look forward to the positive outcomes it will undoubtedly generate for residents across the city of Minneapolis.

Walsh moved and Reeves seconded a motion to approve submitting a comment in support of the City's proposed update to the NRP Housing Policy. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

B. DMNA contribution to the Mill City Farmers Market

Hantge told the board that the DMNA has contributed \$119,000 to the MCFM since 2011.

Walsh proposed the following:

- \$2,500 in 2024 in exchange for two days of tabling at the market
- \$2,500 in 2025 in exchange for two days of tabling at the market

Walsh moved and Sweet seconded a motion to contribute \$2,500 in both 2024 and 2025 in exchange for two days of tabling in both 2024 and 2025. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

Hantge will present the proposal to Ella Daniels and Amy Britt, the development manager for the MCFM. If Daniels and Britt agree to the proposal, Hantge will work with Bob Cooper at Development Finance on the NRP Plan Modification. It will likely take a 21-day notice announced at the May 22, board meeting and a vote at the June board meeting.

C. DMNA contribution to the DID 2024 Tree Watering Program

Hantge told the board that the DMNA has contributed \$70,000 toward tree watering since 2017.

Walsh moved and Sweet seconded a motion to contribute up to \$10,000 for watering the 53 trees outside of the DID boundaries for a cost of \$9 a tree for a period of 20 weeks. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

Hantge will work with Bob Cooper at Development Finance on the NRP Plan Modification. It will likely take a 21-day notice announced at the May 22, board meeting and a vote at the June board meeting.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair

Secretary