

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
DMNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 23, 2024, via Zoom

Zoom Recording

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/EZFMHdhXjtwDcLbmztzFfWzCTg31kF4cTvJU27JTypc4jvILdOzbe3fb2k1l4VH5.b0gYPRZrx2KMMH4n>

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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:

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

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Board member Carletta Sweet, Secretary was absent from the meeting.

Zoom guests in attendance included:

Victoria Balko, City of Minneapolis, NCR Department
Kaley Brown, Policy Aide, Ward 7
Larry Dole
Julia Laden, Hennepin County Election Services
Patrick Sadler, Policy Aide, Ward 3
Elizabeth Shaffer, Commissioner District 4, MPRB

II. Consideration of Agenda

Walsh presented the agenda.

Arnold 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, Ward 3 Policy Aide, Patrick Sadler, reported on the following:

- Somali Elders are continuing to use the DMNA Safety Center space at the 205 Park Avenue. They are looking at updating their hours as we move into the winter months. They were recently featured in an article in the Star Tribune about the good work that they are doing.

<https://www.startribune.com/this-group-of-somali-elders-walks-minneapolis-streets-to-keep-an-eye-on-their-youth/601148251>

- City Council continues to discuss the 2025 Budget. The city is struggling with tax revenue due to loss of downtown commercial space.
- Council Member Rainville recently met with Lime scooters to discuss some operational issues. Working to address things before next spring's licensing agreements.

Upon concluding his update, he responded to questions. Hansen inquired about the possibility of updating or changing the rules at this point in the season regarding scooters. Sadler said this is unlikely, but they will address issues in next year's licensing agreements.

IV. Ward 7 Update

In the absence of Council Member Cashman, Ward 7 Policy Aide, Kaley Brown, reported on the following:

- In June, Council Member Cashman and Council Member Rainville introduced an ordinance that will make it easier to convert non-residential buildings into residential. Mayor Frey will sign the ordinance on September 24. More information is available at <https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/business-services/planning-zoning/amendments/adopted-proposed/recently-adopted/office-to-residential/>
- Council Member Cashman is chair of the Climate and Infrastructure Committee. This committee is currently reviewing three staff proposed alternatives for moving transportation off the Nicollet Mall. The earliest that buses could be moved off the mall would be 2026. For more information and to provide input, visit, <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/transportation-programs/nicollet-mall-downtown/>

V. NCR Board Diversity Survey

NRP Specialist Victoria Balko introduced herself and explained that the city conducts a Diversity survey of all boards, commissions, committees on a bi-annual basis. The purpose of the survey is to ensure that the composition of these groups truly reflects the people who live in the city. She provided a link to the survey in the Chat and asked the board to respond. More information regarding the Diversity Surveys is available at

<https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/ncr/what-we-do/boards-commissions/diversity-surveys/>.

VI. MPRB Update

District 4 Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer reported on the following:

- Update regarding programming at Downtown Parks (Water Works and The Commons). It seems to be helping reduce criminal activity and loitering.
- The plank sidewalk behind the Mill City Museum is scheduled to be repaired in October.
- RFP for vacant commercial space at 515 4th Street closed on September 20. Hoping to receive proposals for coffee shop or wine bar.
- Elliot Park is going through a redesign process. It has experienced high levels of crime. Highest in the city of Minneapolis.

- Fundraising for the Berger Fountain in Loring Park.
- There is a scooter contract meeting on September 24.
- She is working to establish an endowment for the parks.
- The MPRB did not receive its full budget request from the City, including Graco Park, so that project is on hold.

Upon concluding her update, he responded to questions. Chair Walsh inquired about future funding for the plank sidewalk behind the Mill City Museum. She encouraged the MPRB to include the sidewalk in its capital improvement plan so that there is money for ongoing maintenance. It is a safety hazard for all who use and enjoy the riverfront. Commissioner Shaffer suggested that the DMNA write a letter to MPRB Director Al Bangoura outlining concerns.

VII. Consent Agenda

Brophy moved, and Hansen seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the board meeting minutes for August 26, 2024; F2024 Budget vs. Actual for the period ending August 31, 2024; and the Neighborhood Coordinator / Finance Coordinator staff report for August (Invoice #116). The motion passed.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Land Use Committee

Hantge provided a brief update on behalf of Committee Chair Laurie Rice regarding the September 3, meeting. The committee heard an update regarding upcoming I-94 Bridge Maintenance projects. They also heard a presentation from Orange Barrel Media regarding a zoning appeal related to legal nonconforming billboards located at 409 9th Street S, 1014 Hennepin Avenue, 1021 Hawthorne Avenue (aka 1000 Hennepin Avenue), and 1025 Hawthorne Avenue. The committee did not approve any letters of support this month.

Next meeting is on Tuesday, October 1.

B. Safety and Security. In the absence of Committee Chair Howard Cohen, Board Member Jim Bishop reported that the committee did not meet in September. Their next meeting is on October 3. They are working on recruiting new members.

C. Civic Engagement. Committee Chair Abby Larson reported that the committee met on September 18. They discussed the following:

- Debriefed regarding the National Night Out event.
- Final Service Saturday event of the year is on September 18.
- Discussed the future of Service Saturday. Considering going to a quarterly event as opposed to monthly. Possibly dedicated to a single project.
- Abby noted that she is not running for re-election to the board and will be resigning as chair of the Civic Engagement Committee. Her increased work obligations just don't give her the time she needs to put into committee work.

Next meeting is TBD.

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

- 2024 signs have been installed except for First Baptist Church.
- They replaced two damaged signs from previous years.
- They continue to receive sign request inquiries for 2025. Need to determine if funding is available after this year's expenses are paid.
- 2024 video will be shown at the Annual Meeting.

IX. New / Old / Other business

- 2024 Annual Meeting
 - Location is the Mill City Museum from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Resource fair from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. with Happy Hour featuring appetizers, cash bar and music by Benny Weinbeck. Info tables include Be That Neighbor, the DID, Minneapolis League of Women Voters, Mil District Safety Walks, Move Minneapolis, and the MPRB.
 - Brophy is working on collecting door prizes. Walsh encouraged all board members to seek out at least six gift cards from local businesses.
 - Need board candidates.
 - Postcard mailer is in process.
 - Possible speakers include Community Safety Commissioner Todd Barnette and Inspector Peterson. Hantge will contact them.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Chair

Secretary