

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
DMNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 27, 2025, at the Mill City Museum

I. Call to Order

President Dianne Walsh called the Board meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Steve Arnold
Dan Brophy
Zachary Brunnert
Kristen Hansen
Julia Laden
Matt Monroe
Latonya Reeves
Craig Simonson

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

II. Consideration of Agenda

Walsh presented two additions to the agenda:

- Review and approval of Executive Director Christie Hantge’s professional services contract.
- Review and approval of sponsorship request from the MPRB for the Chill Fest on February 22, at The Commons.

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

III. Overview of 2024 Priorities

- Engagement with Businesses
 - NNO—recruiting businesses to donate and table
 - Fundraising—NNO and Annual meeting
 - Annual Meeting—Advertising donors
 - Historic Signage—collaborate with owners
 - Land Use Committee
 - Mill District Business Community – attended meetings, offer support, created map for the website

- Neighborhood Safety and Security
 - Whistle Project
 - Safety Forum
 - Collaboration with other Safety Organizations and Individuals
- Historic Signage
 - Researched 11 additional buildings
 - Installed and replaced signs on buildings
 - 62 buildings are now identified with signs
 - Requests to add 5 more buildings
- Civic Engagement
 - Mill City Farmer’s Market
 - Pianos on Parade – Minneapolis Downtown Council
 - Tree Watering – Minneapolis Downtown Council
 - Service Saturdays – Downtown Improvement District
 - Candidate Forums
- Fundraising
 - Required Significant Commitment from Board Members
 - National Night Out Success
 - Annual Meeting Success

IV. Review of Executive Director Professional Services Contract

Executive Director Christie Hantge presented her updated professional services contract and her request for an increase to her hourly rate, as well as an annual cost of living increase.

Brophy moved and Reeves seconded a motion to approve the professional services contract for Executive Director Christie Hantge. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. Review sponsorship request from the MPRB for the Chill Fest

Walsh explained that MPRB staff that work with the downtown parks reached out to the DMNA to see if they would be willing to sponsor S’mores kits at the Downtown Chill Fest on February 22, at The Commons. The proposed sponsorship is \$200.

Reeves moved and Hansen seconded a motion to approve the sponsorship request from the MPRB for the Chill Fest on February 22, at The Commons. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

VI. Financial Review

Executive Director Hantge presented her financial overview, which included the following:

- DMNA is organized as a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3)
- Fiduciary duties of the board

- Basic board responsibilities
 - Approve the annual budget
 - Review monthly financial reports
 - Review and approve the annual tax filings with the IRS and the State of MN
 - Ensure that insurance policies are in place
 - Reviewing and approving professional services contracts
- Sources of revenue
 - NRP
 - CNNF-EEF
 - Donations
 - Grants
 - Fiscal agent fees
- Review of NRP funds
- Review of CNNF-EEF funds

VII. Discussion regarding 2025 Priorities

- **Safety and Security – Dan, Julia, and Craig participate on this committee**
 - Safety Whistle project
 - Somali Youth Link
 - City of Minneapolis “Ready Camp” Emergency Preparedness Class - <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/public-safety/prevent-prepare/emergency-prepare/>
 - DID Safety Update - <https://www.mplsdid.com/safetyupdates>
 - Personal Safety Workshop with the North Loop
 - National Night Out – August 5, 2025 – Dan and Kristen will take the lead on coordinating this event in collaboration with the rest of the board, and possibly the Civic Engagement Committee if we are able to re-invigorate one.
- **Business Outreach – Matt, Craig, Zach, and Latonya expressed an interest in working on business related initiatives**
 - Discussion regarding current business groups in the community.
 1. East Town Business Partnership – This organization is considering its future. We should know more by the end of the 1st quarter of 2025.
 2. Mill District Business Community – Continue to participate in these meetings. The next meeting is February 11, at 9 a.m. at the Radisson Red.
 - Consider establishing an official committee pending what happens with the current business groups. We do not want to duplicate any efforts.

- Engage with businesses around National Night Out.
- **Civic Engagement – Dan and Craig expressed an interest in working on civic engagement initiatives**
 - Neighborhood Day on May 3
 - Candidates Forums
 - National Night Out on August 5
 - Annual Meeting in October or November
- **Historic Signage – Dianne**
 - Looking at doing an additional five signs this year.

VIII. **New / Old / Other business**

- **Resignation of President Dianne Walsh.** Walsh announced that due to health reasons she needs to resign from the board. She will continue to be involved with the Historic Signage Project and other outreach events as she is able. The board thanked her for her years of service. Executive Director Christie Hantge presented her with an appreciation award that reads:

With Our Deepest Appreciation We Hereby Honor Dianne Walsh

Through your exceptional leadership, you have guided the DMNA with vision and commitment. You have fostered stronger connections within our community and championed initiatives like the Historic Sign Project that celebrate and enhance the downtown's character. Your tireless efforts have left a lasting impact. With gratitude, we honor you for your outstanding service to the DMNA, and your invaluable contributions and unwavering devotion to the betterment of downtown Minneapolis.

Thank you!

Board Service 2016 to 2024

Board President 2024

- **Election of Board Officers**
 - President - Walsh moved and Arnold seconded a motion to nominate Dan Brophy to the position of board president. Brophy accepted the nomination. Walsh called for discussion. The motion passed.

