

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
DMNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 21, 2025, via Zoom

I. Call to Order

President Dan Brophy called the Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Other Board members in attendance were:

Kristen Hansen, Vice President
Julia Laden, Treasurer
Craig Simonson

Absent board members Steve Arnold, Zachary Brunnert, Matt Monroe, and Latonya Reeves.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Other guests included:

Molly Burns-Hansen, Ward 7
Suzanne Murphy, Xcel Energy
Nicole Pettit, Gethsemane Community Garden
B. Peter Smith, Gethsemane Community Garden
Myron Thornberry, Gethsemane Community Garden

II. Consideration of Agenda

There were not enough board members present to approve the agenda.

III. Ward 3 Update

There was no Ward 3 update at tonight's meeting. Council Member Rainville and Patrick Sadler were not available to attend.

IV. Ward 7 Update

In the absence of Ward 7 Council Member Katie Cashman, Policy Aide Molly Burns-Hansen gave the report:

- St. The City Council approved the Olaf Catholic Church / Aeon Affordable Housing Project. It will create 72-units of deeply affordable housing in downtown Minneapolis.
- Trellis' office conversion project at the Flour Exchange building received a \$600,000 grant from the City of Minneapolis.

- The City of Minneapolis will launch its Traffic Safety Camera Program in September. There will be several cameras located in the downtown community. For more information, visit <https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/visionzero/actions-taken/traffic-safety-camera>

V. Xcel Energy Update Regarding Downtown Transmission Lines overlapping with the Blue-Line Light Rail Extension

Suzanne Murphy from Xcel Energy presented information about the proposed Blue Line light-rail extension overlapping two of Xcel's underground transmission lines on 10th Avenue. The overlapping lines are located under 10th Avenue, between 7th Street and Washington Avenue. These underground transmission lines are crucial as they provide power to parts of downtown Minneapolis. The proposed light-rail extension will necessitate moving these major utility lines. Murphy reviewed the options with the board.

The Blue Line Extension is a 13.4-mile light rail line planned to connect downtown Minneapolis to North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park. Construction will start in 2027, with the route opening in 2030.

More information is available at <https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension.aspx>

VI. Gethsemane Community Garden Presentation

Representatives from the Gethsemane Community Garden are seeking help finding a solution to their lack of water source due to the decommissioning of Gethsemane Church. Council Member Cashman and Policy Aide Molly Burns-Hansen asked DMNA to help gardeners find funding for connecting to a city water line. Gardener Myron Thornberry noted the absence of nearby fire hydrants, which community gardens often use for water. The best option is to connect directly to a water line. He has obtained estimates of up to \$16,000. DMNA Executive Director Hantge directed Mr. Thornberry to a number of State and local grant resources. She asked Bob Cooper at CPED Development Finance if DMNA could contribute NRP funds to the project. He has said yes that this would be an eligible use of NRP dollars.

President Brophy and Executive Director Hantge proposed to the board that the DMNA could commit to matching any dollars that the gardeners are able to raise. The project should start in late winter or early spring to ensure water is available when the garden opens in April. The DMNA could monitor the success of the fundraising efforts through January and then re-evaluate the commitment.

There were not enough board members present to approve the Gethsemane Community Garden funding proposal. The board will revisit at their August 25 meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda

There were not enough board members present to approve the consent agenda.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Land Use Committee

Chair Laurie Rice provided an update on 800 Washington Avenue. She stated that one of the things that the Land Use Committee discussed with CPED staff and Council Member Rainville was doing a survey to get community input regarding what kinds of interim or temporary uses they would like to see on the site, if any.

Hantge will work with Rice to draft a survey for presentation to the LUC at their next meeting with the plan to the board on August 25.

Next meeting is August 11.

B. Safety and Security Committee

President Brophy reported in the absence of Chair Howard Cohen:

- Emergency Preparedness Training.

Next meeting is Thursday, August 14.

IX. 2025 National Night Out Update

President Brophy and Executive Director Hantge provided an update on the following:

- Status of fundraising to date.
- Door prizes secured to date.
- Volunteer sign-up status. Please recruit your downtown friends and neighbors. There are still available volunteer opportunities.
- Reviewed board roles and responsibilities on the night of the event.

Vice President Hansen provided an update on the unsheltered hygiene kits. Bowman and Brooke contributed \$575 toward this effort.

X. New / Old / Other Business

A. Civic Engagement Work Group

Outreach and engagement work has been focused on the planning of the National Night Out event on August 5.

B. Business Engagement Update

Nothing to report. This group did not meet in July.

XI. Updates / Reminders regarding 2025 Events

- **DMNA National Night Out** – Tuesday, August 5, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., at The Commons.
- **Ward 7 City Council Candidates Forum** – Monday, September 15, at 7 p.m., at the Bakken Museum.
- **Ward 3 City Council Candidates Forum** – Thursday, September 18, River Hub at Graco Park.
- **DMNA 2025 Annual Meeting** – Monday, October 27, at Mill City Museum.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:30 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2025.
