

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
DMNA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 25, 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:

Steve Arnold
Kristen Hansen, Vice President
Julia Laden, Treasurer
Matt Monroe
Craig Simonson

Absent board members were Zachary Brunnert and Latonya Reeves.

Executive Director Christie Rock Hantge was also present.

Other guests included:

Melissa Marujo, Ivy resident
Patrick Sadler, Policy Advisor to Council Member Rainville
Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer, MPRB District 4

II. Consideration of Agenda

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

III. Ward 3 Update

Patrick Sadler, on behalf of Council Member Rainville, shared city updates:

- Council Member Rainville has introduced reductions to Mayor Frey's proposed 2026 budget that will reduce the tax levy from 13% to 7%.
- Encampment numbers are down, with more residents accepting shelter.
- Police Chief Brian O'Hara recently received an international citizen award.
- A new North Side amphitheater project at the Upper Harbor Terminal will begin construction this fall. More information is available at <https://www.minneapolisamphitheater.com/>.

IV. Ward 7 Update

There was no Ward 7 update.

V. MPRB District 4 Update

Commissioner Elizabeth Shaffer gave updates on:

- **Gateway Park:** A community engagement event scheduled for August 26 will present design concepts including a stage, ADA-accessible ramp, and other improvements funded by parkland dedication fees.
- **Stone Arch Bridge:** Ongoing discussions about installing gates to manage late-night activity.
- Board members asked questions regarding ADA and bike accessibility, which will be further discussed at the engagement session.

VII. Consent Agenda

Hansen moved and Monroe seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the June 23, 2025, Board meeting minutes; July 21, 2025, Board meeting minutes; the Financial Reports for June and July 2025; and the Executive Director Staff Reports for June (Invoice #126) and July (Invoice #127). The motion passed.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Land Use Committee

Chair Laurie Rice reported on the following:

- **Klassics Kitchen & Cocktails liquor license:** This business is located at 428 South 2nd Street in the Abiitan Mill City building. Owner Gerald Klass is seeking to upgrade their liquor license to allow for live entertainment. The LUC recommended approval of this application.

Brophy moved and Laden seconded a motion to approve a letter of support for Klassics Kitchen & Cocktails application to upgrade their liquor license to allow for live entertainment. Rice called for discussion. The motion passed.

- **800 Washington Avenue:** Rice presented the draft community survey seeking input for possible temporary or interim uses for this highly visible site in the Downtown East / Mill District.

Brophy moved and Hansen seconded a motion to approve the community survey for 800 Washington Avenue as presented. Rice called for discussion. The motion passed.

Next steps: Christie will send the survey to CPED staff for their review and approval and invite them to the October Land Use meeting.

Next meeting is Monday, September 8.

B. Safety and Security Committee

Craig Simonson gave a brief update. He noted that the presentation on speed bump locations was postponed due to a disruptive guest.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 11.

X. New / Old / Other Business

A. Gethsemane Community Garden

Executive Director Hantge brought the board members who were not at the July 21, board meeting up to speed. She explained that Council Member Cashman's office contacted her about helping the garden find funding to secure a water source. Due to the decommissioning of the church, the garden will no longer have access to water in the spring of 2026. A fire hydrant is not an option because there isn't one nearby. The best option is direct connection to the water main. The garden has received estimates for the work at a cost of up to \$16,000.

Hantge contacted Bob Cooper at the City's Development Finance Department to find out if the DMNA could contribute NRP funds to the project. He said yes that it is an eligible expense. Hantge explained that NRP funds are intended for legacy projects or projects that will have a long-term impact on the community. The garden has 23 plots. It provides beautiful green space in the Downtown West neighborhood. Gardeners contribute their produce to local food shelves and have a regular distribution day at the Elliot Park Community Center.

At the July board meeting, board members recommended providing a matching grant of up to \$8000 to the community garden for the purpose of making the water connection. The DMNA will monitor the gardeners' fundraising efforts through the end of the year, and if necessary, will re-evaluate the grant amount in January of 2026.

Brophy moved and Hansen seconded a motion to provide a matching grant of up to \$8000 to the Gethsemane Community Garden. The DMNA will monitor fundraising

efforts and will re-evaluate the amount of the grant in January of 2026. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.

More information about the Gethsemane Community Garden is available at <https://gcgarden.org/giving-garden/>.

B. Civic Engagement Work Group

- **National Night Out (August 5):** Board members reviewed the event, which was well attended. Feedback included:
 - Positive community engagement, strong turnout.
 - Some concerns about music volume.
 - Communication challenges noted—resident Melissa Marujo mentioned her building lacked awareness; DMNA will continue outreach via e-news, social media, and flyers.
 - Veggie burgers and other food items were popular; leftovers were donated to a local food shelf.

C. Business Engagement Update

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

XI. Updates / Reminders regarding 2025 Events

- **Ward 7 City Council Candidates Forum** – Monday, September 15, at the Bakken Museum, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- **Ward 3 City Council Candidates Forum** – Thursday, September 18, at the River Hub at Graco Park, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- **DMNA 2025 Annual Meeting** – Monday, October 27, at Mill City Museum, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 6:35 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2025.
