

# **DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

DMNA Board President Dan Brophy called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Other board members present included Kristen Hansen, Julia Lofton, Leo Spott, and Mark Syputa.

Also present were Christie Hantge, DMNA Executive Director; Ward 3 Aide Patrick Sadler, Ward 7 Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer; Dan Collison from Sherman Associates, Tianna Nyguen and several community members.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Brophy asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda.

*Hansen moved and Spot seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.*

### **3. Ward 3 Update**

Ward 3 Policy Aide, Patrick Sadler gave the Ward 3 update due to Council Member Rainville having another meeting. He reported on the following:

- Operation Safe Summer:  
<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2026/june/summer-safety/>
- Early voting has started: <https://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/vote-early-in-person/>
- National Night Out registration is open:  
<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/nno/>
- Ward 3 Summer Safety Meeting on June 30, at 6 p.m., at the Depot Renaissance Hotel: <https://www.thedmna.org/event/ward-3-safety-update-on-june-30-at-6-p-m-at-the-depot-hotel/>

### **4. Ward 7 Update**

Council Member Shaffer reported on the following:

- The city is continuing to explore a major redesign to pedestrianize the Nicollet Mall and relocate bus routes to other nearby transportation corridors.

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/transportation-programs/nicollet-mall-downtown/>

- CM Shaffer and CM Rainville hosted a public meeting on June 25, that focused on data center developments in the downtown community. The forum brought together city leaders, neighborhood representatives, and industry experts to discuss how to draft a permanent zoning framework for urban data centers without stifling commercial investment. It also addressed community concerns regarding neighborhood impacts, energy use, and tax revenue. The Minneapolis City Council voted to temporarily halt new data center projects while city staff study regulations and examine concerns about environmental impacts, energy use and public safety. The moratorium does not apply to smaller data centers located downtown that are less than 350,000 square feet.

## **5. 800 Washington Avenue Public Art Project Presentation**

Dan Collison from Sherman Associates presented an update on the proposed public art installation for the vacant parcel located at 800 Washington Avenue, a collaborative project involving Sherman Associates, the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association, Mill City Farmers Market, Sharp Design Company, and the City of Minneapolis.

Mr. Collison reviewed the project vision, which includes:

- A large-scale mural on the retaining wall;
- Decorative fencing enhancements;
- Potential banner installations around the site;
- Continued community engagement throughout the design process.

He reported that Sherman Associates has committed \$20,000 toward the project. That funding will fully cover the design, fabrication, and installation of the fence improvements and retaining wall mural. Additional banner elements may be added depending on final costs and fabrication estimates.

Mr. Collison also reviewed the community engagement efforts that have already occurred, including outreach at the Mill City Farmers Market and an electronic survey distributed through the DMNA. Additional engagement opportunities will continue throughout the design process to ensure neighborhood residents have meaningful input into the final artwork.

The Board was informed that Sherman Associates would execute a professional services agreement with Sharp Design Company, after which a formal public art application would be submitted to the City of Minneapolis Arts Commission. The anticipated timeline includes:

- Completion of community engagement through July;
- Submission of the public art proposal by the end of July;
- City review and permitting during August and September;
- Installation of the artwork before cold weather to allow completion of the mural painting.

Mr. Collison also reported that City staff had confirmed the project is eligible to proceed through the City's public art review process, allowing the team to move forward with the application.

Board members discussed the project schedule, public engagement strategy, permitting process, and opportunities for neighborhood participation as the design develops.

Board members asked several questions regarding long-term maintenance of the mural, anticipated durability of the materials, and ownership responsibilities once the project is completed. Mr. Collison explained that Sherman Associates will continue to own the property and would be responsible for maintaining the installation. The selected materials are intended to withstand weather and normal wear while providing an attractive visual enhancement to the currently vacant site.

The Board also discussed how the project could activate the site while future redevelopment plans for the property continue to evolve. Members expressed appreciation for Sherman Associates' willingness to invest in the neighborhood and create a more welcoming streetscape.

Mr. Collison noted that the project is intended to be temporary until redevelopment of the property occurs but is expected to remain in place for several years. He emphasized that the artwork is intended to celebrate the Mill District neighborhood while creating a more inviting pedestrian environment.

Several board members commented positively on the collaborative approach among Sherman Associates, the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association, the Mill City Farmers Market, Sharp Design Company, and City staff.

Following discussion,

*Brophy made a motion to support the public mural project on the 800 Washington Avenue site, and to work collaboratively with Sherman Associates on the city application process. Spot seconded the motion. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

## **6. People Serving People Capital Campaign Update and Emergency Shelter Proposal**

Angie Johnson, Chief Advancement Officer and Hoang Murphy, CEO, introduced themselves to the Board. They provided an update on their capital campaign and presented plans for an Interim Use Permit to operate an emergency shelter at 219 South 4th Street.

**Capital Campaign:** PSP's mission is to support families experiencing housing instability by providing shelter, early childhood education, housing stabilization, and systems change. Founded in 1982. Opened the doors at current downtown location in 2002. Today, PSP is home to 125 families every night • 99 families in the Downtown Shelter • 16 families at St. Anne's Place • 10 families in two-bedroom Permanent Supportive Housing units downtown. They have a \$20 million dollar campaign goal. They reviewed what funds raised through the capital campaign funds would be used for.

\$11.5 million to Create Space for Community Healing.

Contributions will enable PSP to complete essential renovations to ensure all PSP spaces are safe, comfortable, and conducive to healing. This includes: • converting lounges to kitchenettes • upgrading our elevators • upgrading our guest rooms and lighting to make them trauma-informed and culturally responsive • renovating our first three floors to accommodate a growing staff and classrooms and creating a safer and more efficient school pick-up area for children • Establish community areas where families can connect, learn, and grow, fostering a sense of belonging and unity

\$5.5M to Support Multi-Generational Family Stability:

Contributions will enable PSP to: • Expand and improve our program offerings in collaboration with families. • Respond nimbly as political and economic forces challenge and create opportunities for families. • Create platforms for families to share their stories, advocate for their needs, and shape the future of PSP and our broader community. • Activate the community to create systems that support all families and ensure every family has what it needs.

\$3M to Develop Remarkable People and Culture:

Contributions will enable PSP to: • Invest in training and development that equips our team to meet every family with compassion and understanding while providing the highest quality services. • Compensate our staff well and provide benefits that enable them to care

for themselves and their families—a prerequisite for caring for others. • Ensure every staff member embodies PSP’s mission and values, creating an environment where every family member feels valued.

**Interim Use Permit:** The proposed facility would provide temporary emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness while supporting long-term housing stability through comprehensive case management and supportive services. The shelter is intended to address the continued need for family emergency shelter in Minneapolis and will serve as an interim location while the organization advances plans for a permanent facility.

Proposed operations include:

- Twenty-four-hour staffing and security;
- Controlled building access;
- On-site case management and supportive services;
- Coordination with Hennepin County and community partners;
- Transportation assistance for participating families;
- Policies intended to minimize impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

The shelter would serve families with children and would operate under established PSP policies and procedures that have been successfully implemented at its current location.

Board members asked questions regarding:

- Building security and monitoring;
- Expected number of families served;
- Coordination with Minneapolis Police and neighborhood organizations;
- Transportation and parking;
- Length of the interim use permit;
- Future plans for a permanent shelter location.

Security personnel would be present around the clock and that access to the facility would be controlled. They also described ongoing communication plans with neighboring property owners and organizations to address concerns promptly should they arise.

The Board discussed the importance of balancing neighborhood impacts with the community's need for emergency family shelter and expressed appreciation for People Serving People's longstanding work serving families experiencing homelessness.

Executive Director Christie Hantge informed the Board that the DMNA Land Use Committee will hear the proposal at their meeting on July 7.

More information about People Serving People is available at <https://www.peopleservingpeople.org/>

## **7. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included:

- Mayl Board Meeting Minutes
- May Financial Reports
- Executive Director Report for May

*Syputa moved and Hansen seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.*

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **A. Safety and Security Committee**

- Ward 3 Summer Safety Update on Tuesday, June 30, at 6 p.m., at the Depot Hotel
- Emergency Readiness Camp on Thursday, August 20, at 4 p.m., the Central Public Library

### **B. Land Use Committee**

- Continued discussion regarding 800 Washington Avenue.
- People Serving People will present their Interim Use Permit at the July 7, meeting.

## **9. Old, New, and Other Business**

- **National Night Out Update.** Planning continues for the 2026 Downtown Minneapolis National Night Out, scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Commons. Executive Director Hantge reported that sponsorship solicitation efforts were continuing and that numerous businesses and residential partners had been contacted. The Board discussed several event logistics, including:

- Sponsorship commitments received to date;
- Community Resource Fair participation;
- Volunteer recruitment;
- Entertainment schedule;
- Food service planning;
- Children's activities and family programming;
- Public safety participation.

Board members discussed strategies to continue expanding outreach to downtown residents and encouraging participation by neighborhood businesses and nonprofit organizations.

## **10. Adjournment**

*Spott moved and Hansen seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brophy called for discussion. The motion passed.*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.