

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid – In Person and Via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

Board members present included Dan Brophy, Kristen Hansen, Craig Simonson, Cindy Schulz, Julia Lofton (via Zoom), Latonya Reeves (via Zoom), and Dawn Selle (via Zoom).

Also present were Alyssia Bell, Metro Transit; Dan Collison, Sherman Associates; Howard Cohen, Chair of the DMNA Safety and Security Committee; Alyssia Bell, Metro Transit; DMNA Executive Director Christie Hantge; Ward 3 Council Member Michael Rainville, Ward 7 Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer; and several guests associated with the Gethsemane Community Garden.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Simonson moved and Schulz seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

3. Introductions

Board members, staff, and guests in attendance introduced themselves, including representatives from Metro Transit and the Gethsemane Community Garden.

4. Approval of Appointment of Leo Spott to the DMNA Board of Directors

President Brophy reported that he, Hansen, and Executive Director Hantge had met with Leo Spott and recommended his appointment to the Board.

Hansen moved and Reeves seconded a motion to appoint Leo Spott to the DMNA Board of Directors. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

5. Metro Transit Project H Line Update

Alyssia Bell of Metro Transit provided an update on the Project H Line. Board members asked questions and discussed the project's anticipated impacts and timeline. The full presentation is available on the DMNA website at <https://www.thedmna.org/metro-transit-presents-h-line-update-at-april-board-meeting/>

Metro Transit H-Line website page is <https://www.metrotransit.org/h-line-project>.

6. Gethsemane Community Garden Update and NRP Phase II Plan Modification

Representatives from the Gethsemane Community Garden explained that they are losing their water source at the garden, because Gethsemane Church is no longer operating. The owner of the Church property recently shut down the water service, so making the connection to the city's water main is more urgent. They shared an update on their successful fundraising efforts.

Executive Director Hantge reminded the board that they committed to providing \$8000 to the Gethsemane Community Garden as a matching grant in 2025. She then reviewed the proposed NRP Phase II Plan Modification, which moves \$8000 from the Downtown Development Strategy's Improve and Expand Transportation Systems (3.1.4.1.) line to the Improve and Expand Green Spaces line (3.1.5.1.) for the purpose of supporting a water connection project for the [Gethsemane Community Garden](#).

Spott moved and Simonson seconded a motion to approve the NRP Phase II Plan Modification. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

Finally, Hantge stated that the Gethsemane Community Garden plans to install signage acknowledging donors, including the DMNA.

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included:

- March Board Meeting Minutes
- March Financial Reports
- 2025 CNNF-EEF Annual Report

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

8. Old, New, and Other Business

Brophy noted that a planned presentation regarding the Downtown Improvement District (DID) was postponed due to DMNA Board Member Mark Syputa's absence and will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

9. National Night Out Discussion

Hantge noted that several board members were absent and suggested holding a separate meeting focused solely on National Night Out planning. Brophy agreed. Hantge will circulate a Doodle poll to schedule a dedicated National Night Out meeting. Brophy also noted that he had received a few verbal commitments from prior donors.

10. Adjournment

Hantge will send out a Doodle poll for the May board meeting. The regular meeting date falls on Memorial Day.

Hansen moved and Simonson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.