**DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**
**Monday, July 20, 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, Latonya Reeves, Cindy Schulz, and Mark Syputa.

Absent board members include Dawn Gershon Selle, Craig Simonson, and Leo Spott.

Also present were Christie Hantge, DMNA Executive Director; Ward 3 Aide Patrick Sadler, Ward 7 Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer; Toby Brill and another community member.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

## 3. Ward 7 Update

Council Member Elizabeth Shaffer provided an update on recent City Council activities and neighborhood issues.

She reported that the City Council recently voted against implementing a pilot drone program proposed for North Minneapolis. Shaffer explained that supporters believed drone technology could improve officer safety and emergency response by providing information about potentially dangerous situations before officers arrived on scene.

Shaffer also addressed two recent mass shootings that occurred near the boundaries of Ward 7. She reported that her office had been working closely with the Minneapolis Police Department, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and neighborhood organizations to coordinate a community meeting and discuss public safety concerns. She emphasized that improving public safety remains her highest priority.

Additional updates included:

- A meeting with representatives from First Avenue regarding branding efforts for the Warehouse District.

- Publication of research regarding the historic St. Anthony Falls Cut-Off Wall following completion of a state-funded study.
- Early organizing efforts for the 2027 legislative session to support Commercial Building (CUB) tax credits, which would encourage redevelopment and reuse of vacant commercial buildings throughout Minneapolis.
- An update regarding the City's ongoing work to establish permanent regulations governing urban data centers. Shaffer reported that the Planning Commission had begun reviewing draft regulations that include:
    - Prohibiting new purpose-built data centers within Minneapolis;
    - Encouraging reuse of existing buildings;
    - Restricting first- and second-floor occupancy by data centers;
    - Establishing standards related to water usage, noise, and operational transparency.

Board members discussed recent public safety concerns following the recent shootings.

Board member Latonya Reeves shared her personal concerns regarding increasing gun violence throughout Minneapolis and spoke about the impact the violence has had on her family and neighborhood. She expressed support for exploring responsible use of technology, including drones, as one potential tool to improve public safety while protecting civil liberties.

Council Member Shaffer thanked Reeves for sharing her perspective and reaffirmed her commitment to continuing discussions regarding public safety strategies.

**4. Ward 3 Update**

Ward 3 Policy Aide Patrick Sadler attended on behalf of Council Member Michael Rainville.

Sadler reminded residents that:

- Early voting for the State Primary Election had begun.
- Primary Election Day is August 11.
- Residents could vote early in person, by mail, or at their polling place on Election Day.

He also announced a community event featuring a youth production of Frozen Jr. to be held at the Ard Godfrey House in Chute Square Park, including complimentary refreshments.

Sadler further reported that Ward 3 interns continue conducting scooter compliance patrols to document improperly parked scooters and assist Public Works with enforcement efforts.

**Discussion Regarding Vacant Property at 800 South 3rd Street**

Laurie Rice raised concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of the vacant parcel located at 800 South 3rd Street, adjacent to the Moxy Hotel.

Rice explained that the property has become severely overgrown and has attracted illegal dumping, drug activity, and other undesirable behavior. She noted that the condition of the property creates an unfavorable impression for visitors attending events near U.S. Bank Stadium and has become an increasing neighborhood concern.

Sadler indicated that Council Member Rainville's office had previously received complaints regarding the property and committed to further investigating ownership and pursuing enforcement efforts with the property owner.

Executive Director Christie Hantge reported that DMNA has communicated with the absentee property owner over several years regarding maintenance concerns. She also informed the Board that she recently contacted City staff to determine whether any redevelopment proposals are being considered for the site and suggested that a collaborative effort involving multiple City departments may ultimately be necessary to resolve the long-standing issues.

Board members expressed appreciation for Council Member Rainville's office agreeing to continue pursuing the matter.

**7. Approval of the Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included:

- June Board Meeting Minutes
- June Financial Reports
- Executive Director Report for June

*Schulz moved and Reeves 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**

In the absence of Committee Chair Howard Cohen, President Brophy provided the committee report.

He announced that the committee is partnering with the City of Minneapolis to present a modified version of the City's Ready Camp Emergency Preparedness Program on Thursday, August 20, at the Central Public Library.

The training will focus on emergency preparedness for residents of downtown high-rise buildings and condominiums and will address topics including emergency supplies, fire safety, evacuation procedures, and other disaster preparedness information.

Board members were encouraged to attend and promote the event.

**B. Land Use Committee**

Committee Chair Laurie Rice reported on the committee's July meeting.

- **Honey Hour Liquor License**

  Rice reviewed the committee's recommendation to support a liquor license application submitted by Honey Hour, a new café planned for the Kickernick Building.

  She explained that Honey Hour will serve coffee, specialty beverages, light meals, and honey-based drinks during the day, with beer, wine, and cocktails available during limited evening hours. The establishment is intended to serve as a neighborhood gathering place in a small café environment.

  Following discussion, the committee unanimously recommended that the Board issue a letter supporting the liquor license application.

- **People Serving People Interim Use Permit**

  Rice also summarized the committee's review of People Serving People's request for an Interim Use Permit to operate an emergency family shelter at 219 South 4th Street.

  She noted that People Serving People has successfully operated family shelter services downtown for many years and is proposing to temporarily expand operations into the former hotel building while seeking a permanent location.

  The committee discussed security, supportive services, neighborhood impacts, and operational plans before unanimously recommending that the Board provide a letter supporting the Interim Use Permit application.

*Following discussion, Hansen moved and Schulz seconded a motion approving the letters of support for both the Honey Hour liquor license application and the People Serving People Interim Use Permit. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.*

Rice thanked board members who attended the committee meeting and encouraged continued participation by board members and neighborhood residents.

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

**A. National Night Out**

Executive Director Christie Hantge provided an update on planning for the 2026 Downtown Minneapolis National Night Out, scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, at The Commons.

Hantge reported that:

- Volunteer recruitment is underway through SignUpGenius.
- Sherman Associates employees have committed to assisting with food service.
- Additional volunteers are still needed for event setup and cleanup, the DMNA information booth, and other logistics.
- Board members were encouraged to register for volunteer shifts as soon as possible.

Board members discussed volunteer assignments, including:

- Event setup and coordination;
- Staffing the DMNA information booth;
- Volunteer check-in and coordination;
- Distribution of food and refreshments;
- Wearing DMNA shirts and name badges to improve visibility;
- Pickup and transportation of donated Johnny Pops from Plymouth;
- Availability of coolers and other event supplies.

President Brophy emphasized the importance of having board members staff the DMNA information booth so volunteers can accurately answer questions regarding the organization and its programs.

Julia Lofton volunteered to assist with volunteer coordination during the event, while several board members committed to signing up for volunteer shifts following the meeting.

Discussion continued regarding event logistics, equipment, food distribution, and contingency plans for transporting donated frozen treats should scheduling conflicts arise.

**B. 2026 Annual Meeting**

Hantge reminded the board that the next big event that they will have to plan is the Annual Meeting. This meeting typically takes place on the 4th Monday of October in lieu of the regularly scheduled board meeting. Caveat being the availability of a venue. She asked the board to approve a date of October 26, with the understanding that we may need to make some adjustments based on the availability of a venue.

Board member Syputa offered the Four Seasons Hotel as a possible venue for the event, but he cannot lock in the date until 30 days out since he would be offering the space at cost. The hotel must give priority to fully paying clients. This creates some logistical problems with promoting the event to the community. Hantge suggested that the board consider some other options including the Mill City Museum and Open Book. President Brophy also suggested the Renaissance Depot Hotel. Rock noted that the Annual Meeting has been held at this venue in the past. She stated that the board will have to take into consideration venue and food costs based on the funds available after the National Night Out event when deciding on the location.

The board asked Hantge to move forward with finding a venue with a proposed date of October 26.

**C. Board Member Resignation**

Brophy announced that Dawn Gershon Selled submitted an email just prior to tonight's board meeting resigning from her board position due to work commitments. The board accepted her resignation.

Hantge noted that there will now be four seats up for election at the Annual Meeting. Three with a three-year term, and one with a two-year term. Brophy, Hansen, and Reeves seats are all up for election this year.

**10. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.