

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 31, 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 5:45 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Other board members present included Kristen Hansen, Latonya Reeves, Leo Spott, and Mark Syputa.

Absent board members included Julia Lofton, Cindy Schulz, and Craig Simonson.

Also present were Christie Hantge, DMNA Executive Director; Ward 3 Council Member Michael Rainville; Land Use Committee Chair Laurie Rice; Angela Anderson; and other community members.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

3. Ward 3 Update

Council Member Michael Rainville provided an update on the City of Minneapolis 2027 budget process. He explained that Mayor Frey had submitted his proposed budget to the City Council and that Council members would begin departmental budget hearings in September, followed by public engagement sessions and consideration of amendments.

CM Rainville reported that maintaining 2026 spending levels while accounting for inflation and employee compensation increases would have created an estimated \$60 million gap. He stated that Mayor Frey's proposal had reduced that gap to approximately \$28 million to \$33 million. He identified declining downtown property values and the expiration of federal pandemic relief funding as additional factors affecting the City's financial position.

Board members also discussed public safety staffing and overtime costs. CM Rainville reported that Minneapolis continues to have substantially fewer sworn police officers than it did in 2020 and said both the Police and Fire Departments have experienced significant overtime expenses. Board members discussed the relationship between staffing levels, overtime, recruitment, and the potential use of technology to support emergency response.

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

President Brophy asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding items on this month's Consent Agenda. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

5. Committee Reports

A. Safety and Security Committee

President Brophy reported that Committee Chair Howard Cohen is stepping back from his role as chair for health reasons. Long-time DMNA volunteer and committee member Paul plans to meet with Cohen to learn more about the responsibilities of the chair position and may consider assuming the role.

President Brophy also reported on the Ready Camp Emergency Preparedness Program held at the Minneapolis Central Library earlier in August. Although attendance was lighter than hoped, participants were engaged and DMNA had already received an inquiry about whether the program would be offered again. The committee is planning to discuss next steps at its September meeting.

B. Land Use Committee

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

- **Jet Set Pilates Signage Request**

Chair Rice reviewed the committee's recommendation to support a signage request from Jet Set Pilates, which plans to open its first Minnesota location on Washington Avenue. Because the business will occupy second-floor space in a historic building and will not have a direct ground-level entrance, the applicant requested approval for an illuminated wall sign that crosses the two addresses associated with the space. Rice noted that the proposed channel-letter sign would be mounted without drilling into the historic masonry.

Brophy moved and Spott seconded a motion to issue a letter of support for the Jet Set Pilates signage request. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

- **800 Washington Avenue Mural Project**

Chair Rice reported that the mural proposal had received approval from the Minneapolis Arts Commission and would next proceed through the City's Business, Housing and Zoning Committee before consideration by the full City Council. Executive Director Hantge added that DMNA and Sherman Associates were preparing the required encroachment permit application and anticipated that mural installation could begin in early October, pending final approvals.

- **Vacant Property Near the Moxy Hotel**

Chair Rice reported that the vacant property near the Moxy Hotel that had been the subject of repeated neighborhood concerns had been cleaned up and the overgrown vegetation removed. She thanked City staff and neighborhood partners for helping secure action from the property owner.

- **Downtown Improvement District Residential Inclusion**

Chair Rice encouraged board members and residents to participate in upcoming engagement opportunities regarding the Downtown Improvement District's proposal to include residential properties within its existing service boundaries. Anderson noted that engagement meetings were scheduled for September 8 and September 9.

Executive Director Hantge noted that the next Land Use Committee meeting would take place on September 8 and would include updates from Sherman Associates regarding the 800 Washington Avenue mural and the Grain Exchange project.

6. Old, New, and Other Business

A. Hennepin County District 3 Candidates Forum

Executive Director Hantge reported that the Lyndale Neighborhood Association was organizing a Hennepin County District 3 Candidates Forum for October 26 and had invited neighborhood organizations within the district to participate as co-hosts. The estimated cost to DMNA would be approximately \$100 to \$250, depending on the number of participating organizations. As a co-host, DMNA would be listed on event materials and would help promote the forum to residents.

Syputa moved and Reeves seconded a motion for DMNA to co-host the Hennepin County District 3 Candidates Forum. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

B. National Night Out Debrief

Board members reviewed the August 4 National Night Out event at The Commons and agreed that the event was successful and well attended. Members highlighted the popularity of caricature artists, face painting and children's activities, as well as the decision to serve pizza, which simplified food service and reduced costs.

The board identified several opportunities for future events, including adding more children's activities, improving signage and distribution of personal care kits, providing clearer food-service instructions, and ensuring appropriate recognition for vendors and sponsors. Leftover pizza, bottled water, and personal care kits were donated to People Serving People.

Board members also discussed the importance of broader board participation in planning and staffing major DMNA events. President Brophy emphasized that National Night Out and the Annual Meeting require shared responsibility across the board.

C. DMNA Day at the Mill City Farmers Market

President Brophy reminded board members that DMNA will host an information booth at the Mill City Farmers Market on Saturday, September 26, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Hantge agreed to circulate a SignUpGenius so board members could volunteer for shifts.

D. 2026 Annual Meeting

Executive Director Hantge provided an update on venue and catering options for the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Mill City Museum was available on October 26, while the Guthrie Theater and Depot Hotel had potential availability on October 27. Hantge was also in communication with the Mill District Event Spaces regarding possible dates, including options during the week of November 9.

The board discussed the increasing cost of venue rental, food, and bar service. Hantge reported that DMNA raised just under \$30,000 in connection with National Night Out and had approximately \$16,000 in event expenses recorded to date, leaving an estimated \$12,000 that could potentially support the Annual Meeting and related outreach. She recommended keeping

Annual Meeting expenses at or below the prior year's level and noted that a postcard mailing should also be considered.

The board established September 15 as the deadline for selecting the Annual Meeting date and venue so promotion could begin.

E. Neighborhood Funding and 2027 City Budget

Executive Director Hantge provided additional information regarding the potential impact of Mayor Frey's proposed 2027 budget on neighborhood organizations. She reported that the proposal would eliminate the Partnership Engagement Fund and merge the City's Communications and Neighborhood and Community Relations functions. She stated that the proposed restructuring was expected to reduce staffing within those areas.

Executive Director Hantge said DMNA had been advised that its existing neighborhood funding was secure through 2028 under the current contract, although the Board would continue monitoring the budget process. She noted that DMNA currently receives Citywide Neighborhood Network and Equitable Engagement funding and discussed the challenge of stretching those resources in Downtown Minneapolis, where event and meeting costs are comparatively high.

F. Board Elections and Participation

Executive Director Hantge reminded the board that four seats will be filled at the 2026 Annual Meeting: three three-year terms and one two-year term created by the recent board resignation. The board agreed that recruitment of board candidates should begin soon, including promotion through DMNA communications.

Board members also discussed meeting attendance and whether the current 5:30 p.m. meeting start time creates challenges for participation. No change was made, but members agreed the topic could be revisited with the full board.

7. Adjournment

Hansen moved and Spott seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:52 p.m.