

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association

Minutes from Board Meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2009 Central Public Library 300 Nicollet Mall Room 304, Minneapolis, MN

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Carletta Sweet called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Other Board Members in attendance included Andrea Christenson; Gerry Ewald; Andy Hauer; Paula Klimek, Treasurer; Corey Kline; Scott Parkin, Vice Chair; and George Rosenquist.

Guests in attendance included Suzanne Berndt, CSM Corporation; Dain Cain, RS Eden; Lois Mueller, RS Eden; Carina Ruhlandt, Salvation Army Harbor Lights; Dale White, Downtown Resident;

Staff member Christie Rock was also present.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Staff Member Christie Rock noted that BKV Group would not be presenting anything on the 10th and Hennepin project at this meeting.

Parkin moved and Hauer seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

III. STAFF REPORT

Staff person Christie Rock gave an update to the board on her activities over the past few months. She provided a written report, but verbally highlighted the following:

- Completed the DMNA NRP Phase I Plan Review.
- Prepared payment request for DMNA NRP Contract for period 1/1/09 to 4/30/09.
- Reviewed, sorted and packed DMNA files at the DMNA office.
- Corresponded with former DMNA Web master Paul Barber regarding DMNA email list.
- Contacted the David Agency regarding the DMNA liability insurance policy.
- Corresponded with Brian Gorecki regarding the Walker Apartment Project and request to early access DMNA Phase II NRP dollars.

- Corresponded with Bob Cooper, Barb Lickness, Carsten Slostad and Bob Miller at NRP regarding Brian Gorecki's request to early access DMNA NRP Phase II dollars for an affordable housing project.
- Corresponded with Mary Richardson, a Downtown resident that is unhappy with the noise from surrounding properties near her apartment in the Downtown West neighborhood.
- Gathered and prepared information for the DMNA board manual / Jump drive.

IV. LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

- *822 South Third Street* – Dan Cain and Lois Mueller from RS Eden, an affordable housing developer, gave a presentation on a supportive housing project that his company is proposing for this location.

Cain provided examples of similar projects RS Eden has done at other locations around the metro area and greater Minnesota. He explained that his company specializes in providing housing for people seeking the serenity of a sober building. Tenants must be sober for a minimum of 60-days before they can move into the building. The maximum time a tenant can lease an apartment is two years.

RS Eden is proposing 101 efficiency units for this location. Rents would be in the \$500 per month range. Cain indicated that he has not made a purchase offer on the property yet. He is seeking the neighborhoods opinion and input on the project first. Cain estimates the renovation / construction costs to be in the \$10-\$12 million range. The project would require a number of zoning variances from the City, but no parking variances.

Board members asked a number of questions about the project, including the length of the leases, why retail spaces are included in the project, and whether the developer has met with the Elliott Park neighborhood?

Cain indicated that he will come back to the DMNA board seeking a letter of support for the project if he decides to move forward with acquisition.

- *225 3rd Avenue South (The Milwaukee Depot)* – Suzanne Berndt from CSM gave the presentation. CSM Corporation is seeking an additional sign variance for its Milwaukee Depot property. The City's Heritage Preservation Commission approved the master sign plan on the condition that CSM submit an additional variance request for the freestanding sign located at the entrance to the parking garage.

Christenson moved and Ewald seconded a motion to approve CSM Corporation's sign variance request. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

V. CRIME AND SAFETY UPDATE

George Rosenquist gave the Crime and Safety report. He indicated there is not a lot new to report. He noted that he has been attending Court Watch meetings. He reminded people to call 911 if they see any kind of suspicious activity. He also encouraged everyone to participate in writing community impact statements when Luther Krueger requests them.

VI. NRP IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Staff member Christie Rock gave the NRP Implementation Report. She noted that the NRP Policy Board approved the DMNA's Phase I Plan Review at its April meeting. Rock indicated that she is working on preparing the Phase II Participation Agreement. She is waiting to hear back from Barb Lickness regarding the DMNA's Phase II allocation. Once she knows this amount, she will begin drafting a budget for the Phase II Plan for presentation at the August board meeting.

VII. MARKETING UPDATE

Scott Parkin gave an update on the DMNA Web site. He noted that Sassafrass Design would make monthly updates to the DMNA Web site for a nominal fee. Updates might include changing the meeting date and hot topic and adding the most recently approved minutes, and the upcoming board agenda.

Parkin also indicated that he set up a Facebook page for the DMNA. In addition, he talked about using Twitter to promote DMNA events and activities. Lastly, Parkin talked about the DMNA brochure.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 14, 2009 BOARD MEETING

Parkin moved and Ewald seconded a motion to approve the April board minutes. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF JUNE 2009 FINANCIAL REPORT

Rock presented the June Financial Report.

Parkin moved and Hauer seconded a motion to receive and file the June Financial Report. Sweet called for discussion. The motion passed.

X. OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS / OTHER BUSINESS

- *Telephone* – Continued discussion regarding eFax service.
- *Mail Service* – DMNA mail is now going to the UPS Store in City Center. UPS Store staff members have a list of DMNA board members that can pick-up mail.
- *Outreach and Collaboration updates* – Sweet asked board members to report from their respective outreach and collaboration groups.
- *National Night Out* – Discussion regarding the DMNA’s role in the event and the amount of financial support the organization should provide. There was also discussion regarding whether the DMNA should support an event that takes place in the North Loop neighborhood, or the one taking place in the Mill District. The board did not approve a financial contribution to any NNO event at this meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2009.

Chair

Secretary