

DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 26, via Zoom

1. Call to Order and Introductions

DMNA Board President Dan Brophy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present. The meeting was held via Zoom due to a last-minute change from an in-person format.

Board members present included Dan Brophy, Kristen Hansen, Julia Laden, Craig Simonson, Latonya Reeves, Mark Syputa, and Dawn Selle.

DMNA Executive Director Christie Hantge was also present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

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

3. Approval of Revised DMNA Bylaws

The Board ratified the revised DMNA bylaws that had previously been approved via email. The revised bylaws language allows anyone who lives, works, owns property or leases property in the Downtown East or Downtown West Neighborhoods to be eligible for membership in the organization and to run for a season the DMNA Board. The revised bylaws language also provides clarification around the definition of “work.” Discussion included clarification regarding voting eligibility and abstentions.

Brophy moved and Reeves seconded a motion to approve the revised bylaws. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

Dawn Selle and Mark Syputa abstained from voting.

4. New Board Member Appointments

President Dan Brophy reintroduced the two new board members, Dawn Selle and Mark Syputa. Selle is a downtown resident, and Syputa works for the Four Seasons Residences. The board met earlier in January via Zoom to review and discuss the applications received for the three open seats. There is a third potential board appointment, Amanda Kelzenberg, but she needs to provide documentation of a work lease.

Brophy moved and Hansen seconded a motion to officially appoint Dawn Selle and Mark Syputa to the Board of Directors. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

5. Consent Agenda

President Dan Brophy pulled the Executive Director's Contract from the Consent Agenda.

The Board reviewed the remaining items on the consent agenda, which included the November 24, 2025, board meeting minutes; the November and December 2025 financial reports, and the November and December Executive Directors Reports. and the Executive Director's 2026 contract.

Reeves moved and Laden seconded a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

6. Approval of Executive Director Contract for 2026

Christie Hantge temporarily exited the meeting to allow Board discussion of the contract.

A motion to approve the Executive Director's 2026 Contract was made and seconded. The motion passed.

7. Gethsemane Community Garden Update

DMNA Executive Director Christie Hantge provided an update on the Gethsemane Community Garden, located adjacent to the former Gethsemane Lutheran Church near the Downtown West and Elliott Park neighborhoods. Due to the anticipated decommissioning of utilities at the church property, the garden is expected to lose its water source.

The garden's best alternative is to tap into a city water line, which is estimated to cost \$16,000. The DMNA Board previously committed an \$8,000 matching grant to help incentivize donations from other sources. Representatives from the garden contacted Hantge and requested something in the writing that they can use to solicit donations. Hantge prepared a letter that outlines the DMNA's commitment to the \$8,000 matching grant. She is seeking support from the board for the letter.

Brophy moved and Hansen seconded a motion to approve the letter of support that commits the DMNA to an \$8,000 matching grant. Brophy called for discussion. Hearing none, the motion passed.

8. Minneapolis Downtown Council – Neighborhood Cultivation Committee Update

President Dan Brophy provided an update on his participation in the Minneapolis Downtown Council’s Neighborhood Cultivation Committee, part of the Downtown by Design 2035 plan. He reviewed the four focus areas: Neighborhood Cultivation, Hassle-Free Systems, Irresistible Vibe, and Foundational Safety.

Brophy noted emerging coordination efforts related to riverfront development and Indigenous-led projects and shared that additional materials would be emailed to Board members for further review.

9. Neighborhood & Community Relations (NCR) Update

DMNA Executive Director Christie Hantge informed the Board of ongoing citywide discussions among neighborhood organizations regarding differing approaches to policy and advocacy across Minneapolis neighborhoods. She emphasized that the update was informational only and did not require Board action.

Board members were invited to attend an upcoming Neighborhood and Community Relations Department Zoom meeting for additional context.

10. Open Discussion

The board had a conversation regarding the impact ICE has had on the downtown community.

11. Next Board Meeting

DMNA Executive Director Christie Hantge will send a Doodle poll to find the best date for the board meeting / strategic planning session in late February or early March.

12. Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.

Dan Brophy adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m.