

Downtown Neighborhood Association of Des Moines

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 | 6:00 PM -8:00 PM
Central Library of Des Moines, Meeting Room 1

In attendance: Deb Madison-Levi, president
Luke Ifland, vice president
Julie Feier, communications
Jordan Locke, board member
Doug Selsor, treasurer
Jon Cahill, social committee
Christine Comito, secretary
17 community members

*Call to Order

Deb Madison-Levi called the meeting to order. She reintroduced herself and let attendees know that Brandon Brown, former president, had stepped down. Board elected Deb as president, Luke Ifland as vice president.

Order of Business Subject to Change Depending on Attendees

Community Presentations

- Sgt. Mark McKinney | Downtown Patrol Update 6:00-6:30

Over 2800 police trips in the last month, includes courthouse. This is much higher than usual because of inclusion of Polk County numbers as well as the new Loop Scoop officers writing up sound and speeding offenders. Number of arrests up slightly. Will be shoring up Lauridsen Skate Park. Sgt McKinney provided public-facing website info to Deb as new president. Brandon Brown had asked for this information to compare what is HyVee related or just happens to be on that corner.

- Tentative: City of DSM 6:30-7:00– Josh Mandelbaum, City Councilor, was unable to attend @ the start of the meeting; notation re his visit appears near the end of these Minutes.

- Grand-Locust Conversion Update. There was another open house held by the city at the end of May. Not sure where city is on making a decision.

- Downtown grocer, Hy-Vee | follow up – no information available

Standing Reports 7:00-7:30

- Approval of May Minutes, Luke moved with change of removing Mary Wells presentation from the minutes, Jordan seconded, all approved

- Treasurer's Report (April+May), Doug still working on getting online access to US Bank

- Membership Report –Luke – we're at 150 unique memberships including Full Court Press (all 6 downtown businesses)-- active DNA members will receive 15% off food at those downtown locations (Hessen Haus, Buzzard Billy's, Royal Mile, El Bait Shop, High Life Lounge, Fong's Pizza) Members would like a flier to be able to share with new residents, post at their buildings.

- Socials Report– already had one DNA traveling coffee hour, 2 more coming this summer.

Upcoming Events Schedule

- Friday, 6/28 @ 7:30-8:30, DNA Traveling Coffee Hour @ Hobnob @ Hotel Ft. DSM | and,

4-8PM, Equitable Bldg. Centennial Celebration—open to the public

- Saturday, 6/29-DNA @ DSM Farmers Market, on 3rd St just south of Court (by Stuffed Olive)
- Friday, July 5 – Gray's Station block party, DNA invited
- Fri., 7/26 @ 8-9 a.m. DNA Traveling Coffee Hour @ St. Kilda, 300 SW 5th. .
- Tuesday, 8/6: National Night Out; EMC Pocket Park
- Iowa State Fair Parade, Wednesday, August 7
Starts at Capitol, down Grand to Sculpture Park

DMFD Local 4 hosting June 6 and 13 at The Shop – food and music (TATS—Thursdays at the Shop), opportunity to socialize and support Fire Department

Business Items 7:30-8:00

- Polk County Betterment Grant Update, Christine reported money returned to Polk County from 2023 unspent funds. Application for 2024 (to cover National Night Out costs) has not yet been approved.
- Board Terms | Confirmation –
- Determine August Board Meeting date | August 7– board members polled, new date will be sent out soon.

- DNA Committees | Governance Action Items – Luke has written up suggested charters for committees—outlines purpose, authority, etc.

Social Committee already exists

- Marketing & Communications Committee– there is a need. Would like to have a charter before asking people to join these committees so they know what is expected. Luke proposed creation of this committee, Deb moved to approved, Jordan seconded, attendees discussion, all board members approved.

- National Night Out Ad Hoc Committee– Luke explained the need for someone to take charge of this event. Luke moved to form an NNO committee, Jordan seconded, all board members approved.

- Membership Committee– already formed

Luke made a motion to approve the three charters with opportunities to make adjustments in the future. Deb seconded, all board members approved.

DNA member Carol Maher asked how members can join committees.

NEW BUSINESS

Julie described third party management of DNA website and membership platform as well as Facebook administration. These should be under the control of the DNA, not someone else. Julie has web experience and would like to see changes to access of our website so that we can make appropriate changes to the site. Audience member who has recent experience with River Bend Neighborhood Association, said they were able to allow the City to manage their website, lowers costs quite a bit. Their website is affiliated with the City of Des Moines: riverbendneighborhood.org

Julie explained that there are typos and outdated information on the current DNA website. Need to consider embedded links and emails that are attached to the current site.

Board agreed that we will go forward to see what the next steps will be to make appropriate changes.

Josh Mandelbaum arrived after the City Council meeting—it was a great opportunity for the City Council and DSM School Board to come together.

Josh has not received any report/next steps on Grand/Locust conversion. Not imminent, but he doesn't know anything further. Green space at 15th Street (by Meredith Dot Dash Building), streets will be two-way west of there. That is happening.

Adjourned at 6:50. Luke moved Julie 2nd