

**Downtown Neighbors Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ward 4, 313 N. Plankinton Ave. Suite 207  
July 26, 2022, 5:30 pm**

**Board Members Present:** Lisa Proeber, President, Paul Schwartz, Vice President, Stacie Callies, Treasurer, Cindy Lindquist, Secretary, Mike Bartel, Joe Birdsall, Danielle Coterel, Matt Dorner, Tom Erd, Tim Frautschi, Claude Krawczyk, Deb Lampe-Revolinski, Steven Michalowski, Eric Paulsen, Phil Sarol, Eddie Sturkey, and Mary Voght

**Virtual Attendees:** Brigid Jacobs, Michael Sullivan and Windsor Wrolstad

**Board Members Absent:** Lynnea Katz-Petted, Elyse Brigman, Jim Plaisted, Kelly Rodenkirk, and Tony Silvia

**Guests:** ADA Dax Odom, Taylor Korslin and Bethany Clark

DNA President Lisa Proeber called the meeting to order at 5:42 pm and displayed DNA's new logo, which was met with a round of applause. The designer charged \$150 and provided a variety of display versions.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Cindy Lindquist provided the April 2022 meeting minutes to the board prior to this meeting. Tim Frautschi moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Mike Bartel seconded. The motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Stacie Callies provided written financial reports to the board indicating \$7,724.60 on hand as of 6/30/22. There was one expense in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of \$96 for the website. Deb Lampe-Revolinski moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Paul Schwartz seconded. The motion was approved. Stacie has updated the signers for the bank account and obtained a debit card for expenditures. Currently, only she has the PIN.

**Board Changes:**

Board members Claude Krawczyk (Westtown), Danielle Coterel (Historic Third Ward) and Mary Voght (East Town) will be resigning, leaving 3 future open board positions. Thanks to all for their involvement. Refilling the open board members will be considered at future meetings.

A copy of the current board roster that will also include community contact information will be maintained on DNA's Google drive. A link will be provided. Board members will be able to edit.

**Guest Introductions:**

Bethany Clark – Historic Third Ward resident and realtor. Bethany is involved with the Dog Park efforts and is participating on the Quality of Life committee as a general member.

Taylor Korslin – East Town resident and architect. Taylor is involved with 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, an organization that works to improve transportation systems to reduce carbon emissions and discourage sprawl. The group is looking at future changes to the eastern section of I-794 that could bring it down to street level.

**Proposed Bylaw Changes:**

Joe Birdsall presented several potential changes to the bylaws proposed by the Executive Committee and that would allow us to be more responsive and eliminate some ambiguity in the bylaw language.

1. Board decisions made between board meetings are circulated for voting via email. In order to respond quickly to time sensitive matters, the bylaws would be amended to state that a simple majority is sufficient and that a non-reply after 24 hours would be considered an affirmative vote.

After some discussion, it was concluded that a longer turnaround time is more practical and other methods for vote tallies rather than email strings could be considered. Maybe Google form?

2. The bylaw language regarding monetary disbursements should be better defined. For example, up to a specified dollar limit would only require the President's approval. A higher tier would require Executive Committee approval. Beyond that, full board approval would be needed. The dollar amounts were debated. In addition, a cap based on the % of the existing treasury balance could be an additional metric.

Joe will redraft the language regarding these topics to be considered at a future meeting.

The Executive Committee also proposed formalizing expectations and creating a commitment statement for board members. Ideas include requiring attendance at a minimum of meetings and being active on one of the committees.

#### **MKE Dog Park / Riverfront Commons Update:**

Matt Dorner and Paul Schwartz reported that numerous dog park events and promotions are continuing. Watch for news regarding a title sponsor soon. Riverfront Commons is hosting monthly live music with food trucks and drink concessions. Both are efforts to better utilize the spaces under the I-794 freeway.

#### **Crime and Safety – New District 1 ADA Dax Odom:**

Dax Odom recently replaced Kelly Hedge. He served for 14 years as a community prosecutor for District 4 on the NW side of Milwaukee. Dax outlined four efforts:

1. Use resources for high value targets (repeat offenders, those with mental health issues, homeless, etc.)
2. Address problem places – recurring nuisances at identified properties
3. Work at the police station and being available to secure search warrants and answer legal questions
4. Build efficacy and engagement with District 1 stakeholders. For example, block watches.

Phil Sarol recommended that we work with Dax to stage a member event to address crime and safety.

#### **President's Report:**

Lisa Proeber reported that through various outreach efforts, DNA is enjoying a higher profile. Daniel Bauman, a new member of the Mayor's staff doing liaison work with a focus on the downtown area, expressed interest in getting to know the DNA. The Mayor perceives downtown as Milwaukee's front door and wants to work with us. Lisa has also been in contact Ax DeLessio-Parson, Alderman Bauman's new Legislative Assistant. We are being included in efforts regarding the scooters as well as participating in an advisory capacity for the Responsible Hospitality Institute (regarding night time governance of the night life districts) and the I-794/Lake Interchange planning process. Please contact Lisa if you have an interest in being DNA's representative for these and other downtown initiatives.

#### **East Town Association Update:**

Eddie Sturkey reported the East Town Association successfully staged Bastille Days after a 2-year hiatus with 2,300+ registered runners in the Storm the Bastille run. Jazz in the Park will run July through September. A revamp of Cathedral Square Park was completed in the nick of time. Possible future upgrades could include addressing the defunct fountain possibly with a bandshell? Wells Street is to be redone. Options for Jefferson Street are being explored.

The Eiffel Tower display is in need of refurbishment and could not be used this year. The cost is estimated to be \$20,000. \$3,500 has been raised. Lisa Proeber proposed that DNA contribute \$1,000. After discussion, Claude Krawczyk moved that DNA contribute \$500 now and that an additional \$500 would be contingent to some type of matching program. Mike Bartel seconded. All approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Events and Outreach Committee (Phil Sarol –chair):**

Recent events included a trash pick-up event on June 11 and participation in NM Park’s play date on July 17. A town hall with Alderman Bauman is planned for Sept. 13. The Annual meeting is October 25. Details to follow. Phil Sarol expects to hold monthly planning meetings to host four major events in 2023.

For Outreach, we need assistance with message content, Facebook posts and website maintenance.

### **Quality of Life (Joe Birdsall - chair):**

The Quality of Life committee’s next meeting is August 16. All are welcome. Efforts to expand the hours at NM Park at the Summerfest grounds have been successful. Other potential initiatives include EV related activities and reinstating the DNA Pledge/Cash Mob. Volunteers are needed to run with these activities.

**Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next Board Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 25, 2022, 5:30 pm, Location TBD. Phil Sarol is hoping to secure space at the new Ascent apartment building.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Lindquist