

**Downtown Neighbors Association
Annual Member Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting
The Ascent MKE, 700 E. Kilbourn Ave.
October 25, 2022, 5:30 pm**

Board Members Present: Lisa Proeber, President, Paul Schwartz, Vice President, Stacie Callies, Treasurer, Cindy Lindquist, Secretary, Mike Bartel, Joe Birdsall, Bethany Clark, Danielle Coterel, Tom Erd, Tim Frautschi, Brigid Jacobs, Lynnea Katz-Petted, Taylor Korslin, Claude Krawczyk, Deb Lampe-Revolski, Steven Michalowski, Eric Paulsen, Jim Plaisted, Phil Sarol, Tony Silvia, Eddie Sturkey, Michael Sullivan, and Windsor Wrolstad

Board Members Absent: Matt Dorner

Speakers: Mayor Cavalier Johnson, Alderman Bob Bauman, ADA Dax Odom, Officer Molly Plumley, Beth Weirick, CEO of Milwaukee Downtown BID 21, Taylor Korslin and Eric Paulsen

Guests: About 75 DNA members and community attendees

DNA President Lisa Proeber called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm and shared a brief description of DNA, which is a downtown resident advocacy group that was formed in 2011 and is funded and supported by Milwaukee Downtown BID 21, the Historic Third Ward Association, Westtown Association and East Town Association. Membership for downtown residents and workers is free.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Alderman Bob Bauman):

Alderman Bauman greeted the group and expressed his enthusiasm regarding DNA's increased membership and growing influence with the city. He introduced Mayor Johnson.

Mayor Cavalier Johnson shared his goals for a safer and more prosperous Milwaukee and bringing more resources to the city by working with the state to honor its obligation to provide fair shared revenue. The Mayor reported initial success with crime down by 14%.

Mayor Johnson conveyed City proclamations to Danielle Coterel and Claude Krawczyk for their years of service to DNA as past presidents and other contributions the City.

DNA BOARD BUSINESS

Board Changes:

Incoming board members Taylor Korslin and Bethany Clark were introduced. Tim Frautschi moved to accept their nominations and Tom Erd seconded. All approved. Tammy Bockhorst moved to accept the following full board and officers for 2023. Michael Sullivan seconded. All approved.

EAST TOWN

Eddie Sturkey – Interim Executive Director, East Town Association
Cindy Lindquist – Resident
Phil Sarol – Resident, Events & Outreach Chair
Steven Michalowski – Resident
Windsor Wrolstad – Resident

WESTOWN

Stacie Callies – Executive Director, Westtown Association
Tom Erd – Resident
Brigid Jacobs – Resident
Mike Bartel – Resident
Lynnea Katz-Petted – Business Representative (Revitalize Milwaukee)
Joe Birdsall – Resident, Quality of Life Chair
Deb Lampe-Revolski – Resident

THE HISTORIC THIRD WARD

Jim Plaisted – Executive Director, Historic Third Ward Association
Paul Schwartz – Business Representative (Milwaukee Public Market)
Lisa Proeber – Resident, President
Tim Frautschi – Resident
Tony Silvia – Resident
Michael Sullivan – Resident

MILWAUKEE DOWNTOWN, BID 21 REPS

Matt Dorner – Economic Development Director
Beth Weirick – Emeritus Director

Prior Meeting Minutes:

Cindy Lindquist provided the July 2022 meeting minutes to the board prior to this meeting. Lynnea Katz-Petted moved to approve the Secretary's Report. Tony Silvia seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Stacie Callies recommended that the contributions by our sponsoring entities be increased next year. The details will be discussed at the next DNA board meeting. Stacie provided written financial reports to the board indicating \$6,598.01 on hand as of 10/21/22. DNA had annual revenue YTD of \$2,000 and expenses of \$1,222.59. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Quality of Life (Joe Birdsall - chair):**

Joe Birdsall reported this year's committee activities: issuing a letter to the city supporting the dockless scooter pilot program, lobbying for expanded hours at Northwestern Mutual's Community Park at the Summerfest grounds, and hosting informational meetings regarding electric vehicle charging stations and the 2023 City budget. A potential future initiative could be to reinstate the DNA Pledge/Cash Mob. New ideas are always welcome and we are seeking members to champion them.

Events and Outreach Committee (Phil Sarol –chair):

In addition to events mentioned by Joe, DNA hosted a social event at the 3rd Street market hall and a neighborhood clean-up as well as participated in NM Community Park's family fun day. Phil expects we will host one major event quarterly in 2023 and needs help executing those events.

CRIME AND SAFETY**Community Liaison Officer Molly Plumley:**

Officer Plumley reported recent crime statistics for the downtown area.

District 1 ADA Dax Odom:

ADA Odom reported that his office is prioritizing handle high value targets (repeat offenders, those with mental health issues, homeless, etc.). He cited current examples including Charles Evans, who has been a constant nuisance in the area around Café Benelux and The Wicked Hop, and Wallace Stensen, who has been robbing people around the Intermodal Station. Please contact Dax with any questions or concerns.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Use this link to view the slide deck from the following presentations for additional details: [Meeting Presentation](#)

MKE Dog Park Update (Paul Schwartz):

Fundraising for the proposed dog park to be located at the southeast corner of Plankinton and Clybourn under the I-794 ramps began about a year ago. A major title sponsor announcement will come shortly. The sponsors continue to hold events to support the effort.

Milwaukee Night Time Management (Beth Weirick):

Milwaukee Downtown BID 21 has a \$4 million budget assessed on commercial property owners within the BID's boundaries. These funds support various events, the downtown ambassadors, ADA Odom's position and homeless outreach efforts. BID 21 has worked with the Responsible Hospitality Institute since 2008. DNA was founded based on that collaboration. Beth Weirick introduced the concept of a city supported nighttime governance with a dedicated office and staff that would oversee and manage activities in active social districts. Milwaukee's entertainment districts provide significant employment and economic benefits to the city supporting the conclusion that a dedicated management team would enhance the city as a whole.

Issues such as noise, litter, parking and crime would be handled through this group in a coordinated and proactive fashion while freeing up police and other resources to handle their primary duties. This type of system has been applied successfully in other cities and warrants further study for its application in Milwaukee. Guidance would include a combination of public, private and government entities with oversight by an advisory board and possibly could be housed under the Dept. of City Development. Several funding sources were suggested.

I-794/Lake Interchange (Taylor Korslin and Eric Paulsen):

Taylor Korslin, on behalf of environmental advocacy group 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, presented an alternative to simply reconstructing I-794 as an elevated freeway through downtown. The eastern section of I-794 is approaching the end of its life and will need major rehabilitation and WisDOT is studying alternatives for this project. 1000 Friends of Wisconsin supports removing the elevated sections of I-794 between North 6th Street and the Hoan Bridge and channeling traffic onto a redesigned Clybourn Street. The land that is now under the freeway would become developable infill sites. Renditions provided show a series of high rises along the eastern section of the current freeway right-of-way, transitioning to the west with mid-rise uses. Mixed recreational and public spaces are depicted closer to the Milwaukee River. Clybourn Street would be a two-way tree-lined boulevard. Advocates cite traffic patterns that suggest most vehicles travel to and from downtown rather than passing through, and the success of the Park East redevelopment in support of the change. While the cost of this alternative substantially exceeds reconstruction, this is a generational opportunity to enhance this part of downtown. Now is the time to think big and explore possibilities. The concept would support and be consistent with the Mayor's stated goal of increasing Milwaukee's population to 1 million residents.

DNA Board member and long-time Historic Third Ward resident Eric Paulsen presented an opposing viewpoint. The current configuration works. Freeways and surface streets can co-exist, while some changes to the ramps could be considered. The portion of I-794 that needs rebuilding is only east of the river. The section west of the river was already rebuilt recently. Regarding removal, the Park East is not a fair comparison. It was a much less critical linkage. Demand for alternative uses didn't exist and it took 12 to 15 years to see any type of new development, with much of it being low-density (Pick 'n Save and garden apartments). Significant traffic passing through downtown is generated by the Port of Milwaukee including all of the trucks hauling winter salt to other areas of the city and surrounding suburbs. The Hoan connection is used for traffic to and from the airport. Where will that traffic go? Passage from downtown to the 3rd Ward is relatively easy now. What will it be like with a high volume of vehicles entering the area? The goal of a walkable downtown with new mixed-use development is great, but downtown needs to be reachable. We need arteries, not capillaries. The freeway is OK as is.

DNA will not take a position on the issue at this time but plans to offer future informational sessions for residents.

Thank you to all of our guest speakers.

Lisa Proeber was recognized as being the catalyst for moving DNA forward this past year.

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next Board Meeting will be held January 24, 2023, 5:30 pm, Location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Lindquist