

**Minutes from the
East Downtown Council Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, March 8, 2012
First Covenant Nehemiah Center Conference Room, 810 South 7th Street**

Present: Brian Maupin, Dan Collison, Susan Braun, John Campobasso, Tom Hayes, Jim Norkosky, Jan Olsen, Carletta Sweet

Absent: Jeff Anderson, Tim Tucker

Call to Order

President Jim Norkosky called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Jim introduced and welcomed the new Executive Assistant, Janelle Nivens to the board. The board then went around and introduced themselves.
- Jim asked Janelle if she had any comments. Janelle invited the board to let her know if some of the changes she may test (e.g. using Google Docs).

Consideration of agenda

- Susan asked for the addition of two items to the agenda:
 - Report/confirmation on the submission of the BAAP application.
 - Discuss the elections and confirm board candidates.
- Dan brought up the agenda item requested by Jeff Anderson via e-mail:
 - Proposed a stadium related luncheon and asked if the board would take an official stance of support for the stadium.
- Carletta asked that the Board review and approve the recaps from the January and February Business Forums.
- Approved as submitted (TH/CS).

Consideration of February 9, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes

- Approved as submitted (CS/BM).

Treasurer's Report

- Brian explained the February 2012 month end report as submitted in the board packet; thereafter it was approved to receive and file (CS/SB).
- Brian reported two new memberships in February but explained that for record purposes, they will be recorded in March because they are counted when the deposits are made in the bank.

Membership Report

- Reported that the momentum from the January lunch produced several new memberships:
 - Paul Mellblom of [Meyer, Scherer and Rockcastle Ltd](#)
 - Carl Runck of [Alatus, LLC](#)
- Currently EDC has 40+ members out of 146 potential members.
- Tom wanted to know about the requirements to be a Director and the bylaws were consulted for the guidelines. Dan read from the bylaws and reminded the board that non-members can be elected to the board.
 - Discussed conflict of interest contract and reminded the board that Directors should abstain from votes where there may be a conflict of interest.
- Susan brought up using the luncheons as a way to recruit new members.
 - Jim asked that all guest names be given to him so he can greet them.
 - Dan offered to give a two-minute pitch at every luncheon and there was support for that approach.
- Vikings Stadium Bill's impact on the membership drive launched a lengthy discussion with the main points being:
 - Brian brought up that the stadium deal will cause a lot of membership momentum.

- Discussed pros and cons of Jeff's e-mailed proposal that the EDC could host a special forum surrounding stadium bill.
- Tom pointed out that EDC has already made a stance of support of the stadium from Jim's Downtown Journal quote.
- Susan reiterated EPNI's position on the stadium and that the discussion needs to include appropriate and effective 21st century development and community participation on all development that happens.
- Jim suggested that if EDC agrees to a special stadium luncheon that it is from the lens of wanting development.
- Considered having a join event with EPNI and DMNA. The agenda has already been set for EPNI for Monday, March 12. The DMNA board meeting is Tuesday, March 13.
- Discussed location and Jim offered up Thrivent's auditorium and Dan offered the First Covenant Church sanctuary as possible venues for the Vikings forum.
- Dan asked that after a decision is made [by the legislature] that EDC have an e-mail discussion and come to a quick agreement on what the response should be.
- Looked at dates for a special luncheon, Susan said it should be a Thursday and Jan suggested in lieu of the board meeting on April 12. Dan suggested that the board meet at 11:00 AM for the board meeting and 11:30 for the special forum.
- Decided that the Vikings and others will present at the luncheon and the constituents are in the audience
- Action: Jim check on Thrivent Auditorium's availability and e-mail Jeff about the forum
- John said he'd send an e-mail about the Chamber sponsored stadium discussion so that EDC can borrow language. [E-mail sent Friday, March 9, 2012]

Business Forum Planning Report

- Recap of February 23rd at Guthrie
 - Jan said she was very impressed and that it was a very good lunch.
 - Carletta e-mailed the recap for those who were unable to attend can read.
- March 22nd - Confirmed at Augustana; Working with Brook on room to handle attendance; Augustana catering; Dan Collison leading panel on "Ways that social services and charities can contribute to the economic vitality of a city".
 - Susan brought up an issue with the announcement "Is the DEEP district overburdened by social services" and that some people in the EPNI community were quite alarmed by the framing of the discussion. Dan said that it is not meant to be negative and that the panel is full of social services leaders who will be able to speak directly to the question.
- The EDC Annual meeting is April 26th and is confirmed location at Thrivent. Jim will need all of the names because people need to pick up a badge at a desk and come downstairs. Everyone will arrive at the second floor reception desk and be guided to the meeting space.
- May Forum will be a follow-up luncheon on the legislature's decision about the stadium and possibly at the Metrodome.
- June does not have a topic and the following were discussed
 - Jim suggested the Downtown Improvement District
 - Tom said that HCMC may have a topic
 - Susan suggested the annual walking tour
- Carletta asked about the media contest announcement and it was decided that the Marketing committee will have to get together to discuss the contest. Tom will send out an e-mail about the meeting date and location.

Façade Improvement Report

- Jim said that there have been no new applicants.
- Extension of Grant was verbally accepted but the signed extension has not been sent in the mail.
- Jim needs to follow-up with the City of Minneapolis contact, Rebecca Parrell (rebecca.parrell@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 612-673-5018).

Marketing Committee Report

- Skipped the marketing report and Tom said he'd get the committee together.

Neighborhood Updates

- DMNA update was sent via e-mail from Carletta dated Thursday, March 8, 2012 and saved in the [March 2012 Board Meeting Google Docs folder](#).
- EPNI
 - Started housing inventory and working with U of M graduate students with GIS mapping.
 - Livability task force is growing and becoming more effective with police participation and local organizations dealing with drug dealing and street issues.
 - Susan announced that she is resigning EPNI and will be leaving in June. She discussed leaving the EDC board and recommended that she be replaced by Lynn Regnier.
 - Carletta said that Susan brought so much value to the board and Brian reminded her that she can be part of the board as a non-member.
 - Jim will announce Susan's departure from EPNI at the annual meeting; vote Lynn in at that time and then invite Susan to stay on the board.

Other Business

- On February 17, 2012, EDC sent a letter of support to Ms. Patricia Fitzgerald, Hennepin County Housing, Community Works and Transit, for Artspace Project, Inc.'s application for the Transit Oriented Design Program for the Artspace, also known as the Liner Parcel Development (Chicago & Washington). Motion to receive and file (CS/TH).
- Reset date of EDC business forums to complement the MDC meetings will be discussed at the April meeting.
- BAAP Proposal was sent and nothing has come back to hear if EDC was approved. Jim requested that Janelle talk to Di about the status of BAAP.
- Jeff's proposal of a special luncheon to address the current stadium bill via e-mail dated March 5, 2012. This was discussed as part of the membership discussion.
- Annual meeting planning (attached list)
- Carletta asked that the Open Meeting law be discussed at the April meeting. Tom mentioned that if it is on the website and publically available, it is meeting the Open Meeting law.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:35p.m.

Approved with these revisions (minutes submitted by Janelle Nivens; revised by Carletta Sweet and Tom Hayes).