

Nicollet Island – East Bank Neighborhood Association (NIEBNA)

Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2014

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm on July 17, 2014 at The Ginger Hop Restaurant Meeting by NIEBNA President Grambsch.

A. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved unanimously.

B. **Verification of Quorum:** Directors Present – Burdick, Clegg (Vice President), Grambsch (President), Johnson, Upton (NEBA Liaison), Larkey, Melzer, Lehman, Dore, Meehan, Guncheon (Secretary), Rosenberg and Sheran. Absent – Folliard, Hondros (Treasurer) and Richardson. Quorum for a board of directors meeting is 7 Directors; 13 were present so a valid quorum was in attendance.

2. **Presentations**

- A. **Council Member Report – Jacob Frey.** Mr. Frey updated attendees regarding the Superior Plating site, the Nicollet Mall refurbishment and other developments underway across in the 3rd Ward

Questions were asked about the new ridesharing ordinance allowing Uber, Lyft and other smart phone app based ride sharing services to operate legally in the City (they now operate illegally). Frey said that he was cognizant of the issues raised by the current taxi cab operators about possible unfair competition and that the new ordinance would create a fair playing field. Frey said that the current taxi cab ordinance has not been updated in decades and new app based business methods need to be accommodated.

B. **Ambiente Conditional Use Permit.** No action was taken.

C. **Adopt a Precinct Program.** Patrick Kelliher, Minneapolis Elections Department was expected to attend to explain the program. Mr. Kelliher was not present. Vice President Clegg briefly summarized his understanding that the program was intended to recruit election judges in precincts with populations with special communication needs. No action was taken.

D. **Dinkytown Transportation Forum.** Paul Buchanan, Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Association (MHNA) board member, invited NIEBNA members to attend the forum on August 12, 2014 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The event is joint effort of the MHNA and the Dinkytown Business Alliance and will be moderated by Minneapolis City Council Member Jacob Frey. The main presentation will cover the future of getting around in Dinkytown and will be followed by a public forum. All interested parties are encouraged to attend.

E. **De La Salle High School – Center for Innovative Learning.** De La Salle President Barry Lieske and representatives from HGA Architects made a presentation about the construction of approximately 15,500 square feet of new space and remodeling of 8,500 square feet at the High School to accommodate new technology and facilities for the new Center for Innovative Learning at the school. Lieske pointed out

that methods of education have changed significantly in recent years especially with regard to the use of technology and the pace of change shows few signs of slowing down any time soon. The Center will enable De La Salle to keep up with the times and offer the best education possible to its students.

Ground breaking is expected in Spring 2015 with construction completion expected sometime in 2016. Since the additions do not require any changes to the existing zoning no formal Board action was required or taken.

A motion was made and seconded to acknowledge and complement De La Salle on their commitment to modern methods of providing high quality education. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Director Lehman abstained since he is an employee of the school).

- F. **DNR Critical Area Plan** – there was a brief discussion of the DNR’s project to rewrite the land use rules for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area, which includes Nicollet Island and the Riverfront on the East bank. Lisa Hondros was reviewing the proposed rule changes and had planned to have a resolution for the consideration of the Board at the meeting. Lisa could not attend so the matter was deferred to a later meeting.

3. **NIEBNA Administrative and Business Matters**

- A. **Approval of May Board Meeting and 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes.** A motion was made and seconded to approve the May minutes with the correction to spelling of Ms. Waite’s name. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. **Election of Officers.** A motion was made and seconded to elect the following officers of the association: Victor Grambsch – President; Barry Clegg – Vice President; Lisa Hondros – Treasurer; Michael Guncheon – Secretary. A question was asked about whether Lisa Hondros desired to serve since she was absent from the meeting and it was confirmed that she did. The motion passed unanimously.

C. **Financial and Business Matters**

- 1) Treasurer Report – President Grambsch explained that there is about \$8,000 in the bank and that there is \$5,000 in outstanding expense for WSB (Small Area Plan consultant). We are solvent.
- 2) Approval of Expense payments. None.
- 3) Other Financial and Business Matters. None.

- D. **Small Area Plan Financial status and payments to WSB.** To date, NIEBNA has paid WSB (the consulting firm used for the Small Area Plan project) \$45,000 of the \$50,000 called for in our contract. There was some discussion about the timing of the final \$5000 payment. Since there are still some minor issues with regard to the final deliverable to be resolved, it was decided not to authorize final payment at this time. The discussion was deferred to the August Board meeting.

- E. **Meeting schedule for August, September and October.** The board decided to meet August 21, 2014 (venue TBD). September and October meeting dates will be the usual 4th Thursday of the month.

Director Upton suggested that future meetings not be at Ginger Hop due to continuing noise and patron behavior issues with Honey Lounge operated in conjunction with Ginger Hop. This comment was noted but no action was taken.

4. NEBNA Project and Status Reports.

A. **Small Area Plan (SAP) status and schedule.** The 45-day public comment period began on July 1, 2014. President Grambsch encouraged attendees to make their voices heard during the comment period. In addition, in meetings with the city and county it appeared that they were receptive to the return of two-way streets and the focus on pedestrians.

B. **2014 Keep the Beat.** Mr. Upton explained the reason behind the event and that it NIEBNA members raised more than \$6,000 in raffle ticket sales. Upton mentioned that success of the event comes from both the business association (NEBA) and NIEBNA and pointed out that the neighborhood surpassed the business association in ticket sales.

Mr. Upton thought it would be appropriate that NIEBNA support be recognized, that NIEBNA gets reports from the beat officer similar to how NEBA gets reports now and that NIEBNA should have a say in how the Keep the Beat money should be spent rather than only being directed by the business association.

C. **Superior Plating Task Group (SPTG) status report.** President Grambsch explained that the deal between DLC Residential and site owner First and University (FUI) had been terminated. With this event the current Superior Plating Task Group has been put into indefinite hibernation to be awakened when a credible new developer emerges.

Director Meehan updated the board on the ongoing pollution remediation. Among the news was that over 70,000 gallons of liquid has been pumped out of the location yet standing water from rain continues to show signs of pollution.

New phases of remediation include power washing and removal of more bedrock. There does not seem to be an agreement as to what is going to solve the problems. Mr. Meehan mentioned that graffiti also continues to appear on the site.

The Board is concerned that the current owner of the site will not do what is needed to remediate the pollution, and that the MPCA does not have a plan to make sure the site is remediated. It was the consensus that this issue be addressed with the MPCA.

A motion was made and seconded to recognize Jeffrey Meehan's relentless work on this issue. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Guncheon suggested that the board consider "Superior Plating" as two distinct and separate issues: the pollution remediation of the site and the development of the site. He felt that the discussions become intertwined and it can confusing to assess the importance of each topic. This idea was noted and will govern future consideration of the site.

D. **MPRB Central Riverfront CAC - status report.** No significant news.

E. **National Night Out (NNO) for 2014.** The 2014 National Night Out will be August 5, 2014. A resolution was passed unanimously for NIEBNA to make a \$250 contribution toward the costs of the local event in Chute Square Park.

- F. **NIEBNA Systems Committee.** President Grambsch explained that one of the Association's goals for 2014 in its contract with the Community Participation Program (CPP) is to improve the systems needed to run the organization including NIEBNA website improvements, social media presence, calendar maintenance, email list management, and a repository of Association documents like agendas, minutes and Task Group reports. There is money budgeted in 2014 specifically for this purpose.

Among the specific requirements of the new system is that it be completely web/cloud based, have no dependence on the personal computers of Association members, and not require technical involvement to accomplish routine tasks like send meeting announcement, calendar maintenance and posting documents to the repository.

President Grambsch appointed Directors Lehman, Guncheon and Larkey to the Systems Committee. The Committee will meet and report progress and recommendations at the August meeting.

5. **Other Business. Announcements.** None.
6. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.