

**Downtown Neighbors' Association**  
*Board Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2011*



The meeting was called to order by Claude Krawczyk at 7:04pm.

**In Attendance**

Don Arenson, Mary Jungers, Stacie Callies (Westown Association), Kim Morris (East Town Association), Jim Julka, John Kielich, Lee Ann Kingston, Claude Krawczyk, Donald Nasgowitz, Jim Orth, David Ray, Dave Reid, Tony Silvia, Sherry Summers, Kate Strzok (Broadway Paper), Ruth Vonderberg, Sheryl Waltman, Tom Wilson, Annette Wilson and Margaret DuPrey

**Welcome**

Claude Krawczyk opened the meeting. He gave a brief overview of the initial organizational meeting of the DNA held a week ago. He was very excited about the positive turnout with almost 90 people in attendance.

**Board**

Claude Krawczyk stated that the first draft of the by-laws allows for up to 19 members, but this number was unintentionally exceeded at last week's meeting. However, he thinks it's a good problem to have and very encouraging that we received interest from more than 19 members to serve on the DNA board. He advised that we amend the by-laws to allow up to 25 members on the board. The composition of the board would include the following A) one member from each of the business associations: Historic Third Ward, Westown, East Town, and Milwaukee Downtown B) One business representative from HTWA, WTA, and ETA, and C) Up to six residents from each of ET, WT and HTW neighborhoods. **Tony Silvia moved to amend the by-laws to allow up to 25 members on the DNA board. The motion was seconded by Don Arenson. Motion carried.** Claude introduced Mary Jungers, who lives in East Town and Sherry Summers, who lives in Westown who were not in attendance last week, but would be interested in serving on the board. **Lee Ann Kingston moved to nominate Mary Jungers and Sherry Summers to the DNA board. Seconded by Tom Wilson.** Motion carried. By adding these two members, the DNA board has reached the maximum of 25 members with the appropriate number of representatives from each neighborhood.

**Boundaries**

Jim Julka proposed that we expand the boundaries of the group to include 5<sup>th</sup> Ward residents up to possibly Pittsburgh Street on the south. Jim believes that many of those individuals feel that they are a part of downtown and have a lot in common with the Third Ward. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of expanding the district boundaries, but the consensus of the group was that overlapping two aldermanic districts would not be in the best interest of the group. They also felt that the group would be able to collaborate with other neighboring associations such as the Walkers Point Association as well as hold open meetings that the residents in this area could attend. **Don Arenson moved to affirm the DNA boundaries as listed in the by-laws. The motion was seconded by Tony Silvia. Motion passed.**

## **Organizational**

Claude suggested that a website and email are good communication tools for the group. Jeff Sherman from Onmilwaukee.com has agreed to help design the site, which has not been completed. Claude asked if Milwaukee Downtown or East Town would be willing to serve as the webmaster for the group? Beth Nicols from Milwaukee Downtown was not in attendance, but Kim Morris from East Town did not think this was a great fit for their organization. Claude will check with Beth Nicols. Claude stated that the Westown Association has agreed to be the treasurer for the group and the Historic Third Ward the secretary. We currently have an employee ID number, but no bank account because we don't currently have any money.

## **Committee Structure**

Claude feels that the work of the organization should be done in committees that are chaired by a board member, but include outside members. They will report back to the board. Claude recommended that the first committee be related to the website, which could be called the Outreach Committee. Mary Jungers, who works in web development, would be willing to chair the committee. **Sherry Summers made a motion nominating Mary Jungers as Outreach Committee chair. Seconded by Tony Silvia. Motion carried.** The Outreach Committee could also work with social media and develop an email newsletter. Claude asked the group what other types of committees they would like to see developed. Mary Jungers suggested that an event committee should be developed that could work on resident clean-up days. Other cities have "Clean up Your Backside" events that promote cleaning the back alleys of downtown buildings. Lee Ann Kingston suggested doing something to address the problems on Wisconsin Avenue and in Grand Avenue because the areas appeared scary. Claude said that those types of issues should be left to the expertise of the business associations. Lee Ann felt that the business associations weren't doing anything to address the situation. Stacie Callies from Westown informed the group about the Wisconsin Avenue Task Force that has been appointed by the mayor to work on creative solutions to activate Wisconsin Avenue as well as the positive energy that is resulting from the creativity incubator that has been developed in the Plankinton Building in the Shops of Grand Avenue. Claude suggested that an Events and Promotions Committee also be formed, which Kate Strozok from Broadway Paper agreed to chair. **Tony Silvia nominated Kate Strozok as the chair of the Events and Promotions Committee. Seconded by Jim Julka. Motion carries.** The board also felt that developing a committee that deals with resident's concerns was important. Claude described the contract that is used by the River North Residents Association in Chicago to hold new businesses accountable, which is something that we consider developing. This group will have a more powerful voice because of the larger numbers, which will help get the ear of our aldermen and elected officials. **Don Arenson was nominated as chair of Resident Concern Committee by Tony Silvia. Seconded by Jim Julka. Motion carries.** For the DNA organization will have three committees that include the Outreach Committee, Events and Promotions Committee and Resident Concerns Committee. Claude thought that the group may want to add a fundraising committee in the future.

Claude noted that the current officers are Claude Krawczyk – President, Don Arenson – Vice President, Stacie Callies – Treasurer, and Nancy O’Keefe – Secretary, and that the officers serve a one year term with no term limits. Claude also explained that the group has agreed not to solicit dues from members so not to conflict with the business associations, but is allowed to do so per the by-laws. The group discussed asking the business associations for a yearly contribution rather than collecting membership. **Jim Julka moved to request \$500 from Westown, Eastown, and Historic Third Ward and \$1,000 from Milwaukee Downtown. Motion seconded by Ruth Vonderberg. Motion carries.**

Sign-up sheets were passed around for the three committees with the following individuals signing up for each committee:

**Events and Promotions Committee**

1. Kate Stroz
2. Tony Silvia
3. Annette Wilson
4. Margaret DuPrey
5. Kim Morris
6. Sherry Summers
7. Lee Ann Kingston
8. Sheryl Waltman

**Outreach Committee**

1. Marry Jungers
2. Don Nasgowitz
3. David Ray
4. Peter Adams or Kim Morris from East Town

**Residential Concerns Committee**

1. Don Arenson
2. Jim Orth
3. Tom Wilson
4. John Kielich
5. Ruth Vonderberg
6. David Reid
7. Sheryl Waltman

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:20pm and was passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7pm at the Milwaukee Public Market.  
Meetings will be held quarterly in January, April, July, and October.