

notes from steve cramer | january 31, 2019

This cold snap at the end of January reminds us we live in Minnesota, but it sure hasn't slowed anything downtown. Here are a few highlights from my perspective as we start 2019.

Retail Report

Following up on one of the key recommendations from our 2025 Plan Retail Task Force, our inaugural [yes mpls downtown retail report](#) was published, with support from the City of Minneapolis' Community Planning & Economic Development department and The Minneapolis Foundation as well as input from many stakeholders. We will be updating this report annually, as a resource to highlight key facts about the environment for retail and, for that matter, other kinds of investments downtown. The retail report can be [found here](#).

2019 annual meeting at The Armory coming up feb. 13

Just a quick reminder about the [mpls downtown council's 63rd annual meeting](#) on Wednesday, February 13th starting at 11:30 at the Armory. It's always a high-energy review of the great happenings downtown from the past year and what we have to look forward to in 2019. Hope you can attend!

Wells Fargo Mpls WinterSkate

The Wells Fargo Mpls WinterSkate, our refrigerated outdoor ice rink in Loring Park, remains open into early March [with lots of fun, free programming yet to come](#) including movie skates, skating lessons with professional figure skater Amy Berglund, a mascot skate with Goldy Gopher, Minneapolis Craft Market days and more! Don't miss the opportunity to skate under the downtown mpls skyline. Skating on the rink is free, and complimentary skates are available during warming house hours.

capturing board feedback

At the first mdc/DID Board meeting of the year, time was spent reviewing 2019 priority activities as well as the results of a recent survey of board members. We have a large and talented group of downtown leaders who are

engaged through our board, and we want to make sure we are capturing their best thinking and strong involvement in the work of the organization.

Final Four

Our second downtown stakeholder meeting on this topic was well attended, and we received a great update from Minneapolis Local Organizing Committee CEO Kate Mortenson and her team about how the event is shaping up. In addition to the games at U.S. Bank Stadium, Fan Fest at the Convention Center and March Madness Music Series at The Armory, there will be other activities including the Tip-off Tailgate #OnNicollet between 8th and 12th Street. A special opportunity I hope the downtown community will take full advantage of is free admission to the stadium on [Final Four Friday](#) from 10 am - 5:30 pm, where you can watch team practices and a collegiate all-star game. *Wouldn't it be great if we filled the place up?!* More to come as details for all of these events are announced. Also, please read this [Op-Ed](#) on the importance of events like the Final Four I wrote along with Jonathan Weinhagen from the Mpls Regional Chamber and Kevin Lewis from BOMA Greater Minneapolis.

Downtown Safety

Planning is under way for this year's combination of safety strategies, with a particular focus on the spring through fall timeframe. As one important element, the DID Livability Team will be expanding in 2019. DID is also exploring the most effective way to plan and provide for additional public bathroom use in the downtown area, with some funding support from the City through Public Works.

New County Officials

It's been a pleasure to meet with new Hennepin County Sheriff Dave Hutchinson and some of his management team, as well as new County Commissioners Angela Conley and Irene Fernando. We're looking forward to continuing a long-standing and productive partnership with Hennepin County across many issues of mutual concern.

Neighborhoods 2020 framework recommendations

The Neighborhoods 2020 Framework recommendations have been completed and are available for review and comment. The official public comment period is now through March 31. Since 2016, the NCR has been holding conversations with community and neighborhood leaders and elected officials about the needs and goals of our growing and vibrant city, and identifying the role that neighborhoods should play in meeting them. This initiative, called Neighborhoods 2020, culminated in three work groups being established by City Council in the spring of 2018. [Click here](#) to learn more about this initiative, upcoming public comment meetings and more.

On Nicollet activations

We are gearing up for another year of fun and engaging activities on Nicollet. To keep up with all the goings-on, please visit OnNicollet.com and sign up for regular updates.

Great Northern concert on Friday

Speaking of programming on Nicollet, don't miss The Great Northern's [free outdoor concert](#) this Friday night. Matt and Kim will be performing #OnNicollet with festivities taking place between 9th and 11th. The event begins at 4:30 pm, and music will kick off around 6 pm. Enjoy this fun, free Great Northern event here in downtown Minneapolis.

That's it from me for this month. Stay warm out there, and thanks for all you do to make our downtown extraordinary.



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