Results from “the Max”

by Margo Ashmore

Thursday, November 19 was a lot of fun, as Give to the Max Day gener-
ated approximately $6,600 for the Northeast Minneapolis Arts District.

We gave away two Water Taxi ex-
periences, to Mark Jones and Larry & Patti Rogacki, as prize incentives for
donating during two time periods at a
certain level.

Thanks to the following people,
some off-line and a few anonymous,
we raised in excess of our $2,500 goal
which was matched by Mike Venne-
witz in honor of State Representative
development.

The fight has strengthened
whether or not that was their intent.

In our capitalist society, the only
way new, quality housing is made
affordable is through massive sub-
sidies. Currently, people and pol-
icians are vilified if they oppose anything that is presented as “af-
fordable housing. We do believe
that council does not have all the answers, yet it’s under pressure to
produce miracles.

Stuck between existing zoning
codes and guiding the future, the
City Council voted against the
2040 Plan, the City Council is al-
lowed to make it up as they go, but
should they? We think not. Due dif-
gence is an important part of any
city plan. When a city council mem-
ber does not reach out to talk to and
listen to the organization, its own
ward, missed opportunities
increase those values and meet those
needs to be convinced, to make im-
provements.

How does Northeast Minneapolis
Arts District define itself and the fu-
ture of Northeast? The board sees
the designated boundaries of the
Arts District as a campus that serves the
region. This campus needs a variety of
services, providers and structures
in its ecosystem. Art is not looking
for charity, art equals jobs.

The Arts District’s relationship with
neighborhood guardians and raised
our profile to many, and as we are not
going to accept mediocre
development and are willing and
able to fight back.

Time after time, in Minneapolis as
well as many cities throughout the
U.S., artists move into the neigh-
borhoods, work to develop the
developers and city officials change
decrees and guidance of the future
development. It’s on industrial
zoned polluted land, too close to a per-
mitted industrial building with its
noise, and lacks basic amenities for
healthy families. We will continue to
look for ways to convince whoever
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northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org.

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