



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes
August 30, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 1st Street North

Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Phil Aliff,
Scott Woller, Mark Huting, and Andy Risvold

- I. August Board Meeting called to order at 7:05 P.M.; those in attendance introduced themselves by stating their names and building of residence or business or employment in the neighborhood. Agendas are made available on the counter; Tim also has a sign-up sheet for the e-mailing list.
- II. Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda. Tim adds the CPP report and AG report approval to the agenda under IX. Unfinished Business.
- III. Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Phil, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the minutes from the July meeting.
- IV. Council Member Engagement – Jacob Frey, Blong Yang
 - a. Neither Councilmember Frey nor Yang were in attendance.
- V. Neighborhood Engagement – North Loop Neighbors
 - a. Dan Collison, 20/20 Partners Executive Director, speaks about the intent to continue the conversation surrounding access in the North Loop. In about 60 days the analysis of parking, transit usage (or non-usage, as counts were astonishingly low), and business needs will be complete. It was conducted from a development and policy perspective. It addresses what is the current situation in the neighborhood and what are the aspirations for it regarding its transportation and transit use.
 - b. Mary Bahneman started a new business, “Minnesota Book Restoration and Binding” at 514 North 3rd Street, in the basement of Corner Coffee. The business does book restoration work and is planning an open house in October. Once the date is confirmed, the Board will post it on the website. Mary just started and already is quite busy. She is working with the former owner apprenticing for two years to continue learning the trade. She is also open to tours for those interested.
 - c. Becky, sales manager at Muse, is looking at ways to bring in business to the event center. Becky works on weddings and is hoping to meet people in the neighborhood and to network. Tim mentions the annual meeting as a potential event to be held there, as it had been held there twice or three times in the past.
- VI. Finance Report – Tim Bildsoe

- a. Tim has sent out an e-mail report with account balances. Only thing to note: the NLNA has received the reimbursement for CPP funds through June of just over \$15,000. There will be additional charges for the trees in October and there are additional eligible expenses for reimbursement, between \$6,000 and \$7,000 through July and August.
- b. The Board spent \$500 last year to have the 990 tax return prepared. The City has someone who does it for free, which is what the Board chose to do this year. It is all finished and ready for signature.

VII. Secretary's Report – Jeff Borg

- a. There is no update, as Jeff has moved to Florida and the position is now open. Jeff had entered all names of interested persons into the database before leaving the Board.
- b. Jeff's position has another year and a half before the election. The Board can approve a fill-in. Scott suggests the Board e-mail potential candidates to have them attend the next meeting. Mark suggests Aneesha Marwah, who is active in the dog park initiative and is a renter. Phil also suggests looking at the list of unsuccessful candidates to see if anyone might still be interested in the position.

VIII. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

- a. Planning & Zoning – Mark Huting
 - i. No quorum was achieved, as only three Committee members were present.
 - ii. Bottineau Blue Line Light Rail: MetCouncil gave an interesting, detailed presentation showing the changes that have been made since the last iteration presented 9 months ago. The blue line will be at grade, while the green line will be elevated at the current bridge, which will be expanded. The MetCouncil has done a very good job planning for the area and conducted various pedestrian and traffic flow analyses because of the unusually-shaped and complex intersection. The 6th Avenue wall has been re-engineered and now, at about 10 feet high, won't be as high as initially planned. It will have a nice textured concrete, perhaps with greening, and there will be trees added to the boulevard. The swath of mature evergreen trees at the HERC corner will be removed and there then will be an approximately 60 x 70 triangle at grade without any plans. This small portion of Hennepin County land presents an opportunity for a premiere place for a "welcome to Minneapolis" or "welcome to the North Loop" sign of sorts. Scott iterates that improvements to the pedestrian crossing to the farmers market are critical. The presentation was simply informative; there was nothing to approve.
 - iii. A letter of support for a liquor license was requested by Sweet Chow Takeaway, a Southeast Asian restaurant with a takeout focus offering bicycle delivery. Its menu is focused on high-end, but affordable, quality foods. The chef from Cafe Alma is to come onboard. There will be physical design changes to the space, which are meant to speak to Asian streets capes. The license is for Class E On Sale Sunday Sales with an adjacent outdoor cafe. A motion is made by Diane, seconded by Phil, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve a letter of support for the liquor license application for Sweet Chow Takeaway. The restaurant will also feature a separate 400 square feet shop that will serve pastries, ice cream, and coffee. The owners hope to be open in early 2018.
 - iv. P&Z development review checklist: the Committee agreed on the idea of having a two-page detailed checklist for Committee members and a less-detailed one for those giving presentations. Mark will work on crafting the checklists and then will present them at the next meeting. Diane stresses the importance of City approval processes and their timelines and for developers to be educated on and recognize where they are within the process(es). Scott suggests that it is OK to steer the direction of a presentation a bit; the Board doesn't need to be too cryptic. Mark to send the draft checklist out to the Board and get its feedback on the direction to proceed. Andy suggests having a certain spot for developers on the website and for property managers to hand out NLNA materials with leasing and marketing materials to new residents.
 - v. Diane received notice from the City regarding NOLO's liquor license, which had already been approved by the Board.

- vi. Tim mentions a large-scale project from Schaeffer Richardson that will be presented at the September meeting and the likelihood of another large project being presented at the meeting in October.
- b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
 - i. National Night Out was a very well-attended event and the Twins were a great partner. The movie was a successful addition to the night. In order to have any of the free food, guests had to wear a name tag, which was a good conversation starter. The event hosted a wide variety of people - it was great neighborhood outreach.
 - ii. Washington Avenue Cleaning Day posters were handed out. The next cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 9, with the group meeting at Whole Foods at 10:00 A.M. There is a partnership with the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA), which will go south/east on Washington Avenue. Cleanup crews will stretch from Hennepin Avenue to Plymouth Avenue. Tim also spoke with the leader of the Harrison neighborhood association about adopting Plymouth, so that in the future, the cleanup can likely extend from 35W to the 4th Precinct in North Minneapolis. The next cleanup will likely be scheduled soon.
 - iii. Bike service station is currently on hold, as Scott received an e-mail from T3 stating that it now wants to reserve the spot for signage. The service station now needs to be relocated. Some ideas: near the Twins stadium amphitheater; by Modest or Fulton; across from Smack Shack; closer to Bachelor Farmer. The station needs about 15 x 10 feet of space and needs to be installed on sidewalk or on a concrete pad. Scott will reach out to the Twins; Andy will reach out to the breweries. Installation is free, as it was part of the cost already incurred; it just needs to be scheduled.
 - iv. Scott makes a request for someone to write the North Loop history and not only one that focuses on 100 years ago, but also includes the neighborhood's more recent history, too. It would be great for content for the website. He asks the Board to keep its ears open for someone who might be interested in conducting the research.
 - v. Signs: Mark ran out of hardware. Scott will get more. There may be an additional costs of about \$250-300 for the post hangers.
- c. North Loop Website – Diane Merrifield
 - i. Diane notes that the website volume is down about 1,000 views to 5,200 and is likely dependent on events going on in the City.
 - ii. She also notes that states other than Minnesota are hitting the site, too, like Illinois (373) and California (112);
 - iii. Minneapolis.org is the top referral site, but many also come from Finance & Commerce, Most Livable Cities, and Facebook.
 - iv. Thanks to Scott and Karen for updating the Facebook site, as it a good tool to continue to build the base of subscribers.
- d. Neighborhood Revitalization Program – Tim
 - i. After the public hearing, the City approved the donation of \$204,000 in NRP funding to YouthLink, but the official decision is still working its way through the approval process and is likely to be finalized in September. Tim had a tour two weeks ago and states that to consider the donation a good investment is an extreme understatement. Diane suggests getting some press on the donation.
 - ii. If the Board doesn't spend the NRP funds, they will be revoked. The questions are then, how much funding remains to be spent and on what can it be spent. \$10,000 and another \$2,500 have been designated for the tree planting initiative and a commitment for fall planting along 394 and Washington Avenue has also been made out of the money. Some categories that may be reconsidered include \$7,000 set aside to establish a business committee and for studies related to groceries stores – which are two expenses that are no longer needed. There will need to be a public hearing held in September to reallocate these funds, as was done with the YouthLink donation. The information would then need to be sent out to Board for posting and to membership within 20 days. Mark will send the proposed reallocation to Robert Thompson.
- e. North Loop Businesses – Andy Risvold

- i. Andy would like to schedule a happy hour meant as a networking event for the local businesses and to find out what they really need from the Board and from the City. He will send out an e-mail next week (after his wedding!). Maybe it can be hosted at Be the Match.
- f. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting
 - i. All planting beds have been completed between the 800 and 900 block on Washington Avenue. Full funding has been achieved, too. The project faced dozens of roadblocks, including parking meter poles only supported by sidewalks that collapsed when the sidewalk was removed and caused the project to be redesigned. Mark will have photos once the trees are planted, which is supposed to occur next week. Maybe the Board can wait to send the next newsletter, so as to include photos of the completed project. The whole project cost \$73,000 - 85% of which was raised. The contractor has been very generous with its staff and time.
 - ii. Washington Avenue Connector Project - Initial cost estimates have come in at \$550,000 for the three main components of the project: 1. demolition of the building, 2. the addition of green space, and 3. the connection point itself. Mark is meeting with the property owners next week. If each can contribute \$100,000, then perhaps the NLNA can fundraise for the remainder. It is a great project with lots of support, but could be cost prohibitive without private support.
 - iii. Dog park: adjacent property owner bulldozed many of the trees, despite them not being located on his property, before the City could stop him from doing so. The project is still moving forward and the largest part of the parcel still has some trees. The proposed area is near the Weather Right building. Blong Yang is in support of the project. United Properties would like to allocate its park dedication fees to the project.
 - iv. The 710 Lofts project will be presented at the next meeting is being billed as a “smaller Commons.”
- g. Neighborhood Safety – Phil Ailiff
 - i. Phil heard back from Renee, the crime prevention specialist, and they are planning on meeting after the holiday.
 - ii. \$10,000 can purchase two cameras for the hot spot area on on 3rd Avenue; they can be tied into the First Precinct’s system. Money is already allocated and reserved for the cameras. If the hot spot changes location once the cameras are mounted, there is a \$1,000 charge to move them. Phil will inquire as to who is responsible for maintenance. Scott mentions that the insulation of blue call boxes at 5th Street and 3rd Avenue might help as well. Phil will ask Shane to attend the next meeting.
 - iii. Dan Collision mentions that Drew from the City Parking Ramps division has been working on the implementation of several points of engagement; they are closing doors, capturing more content on surveillance cameras, implementing police escorts, and making strong efforts to change the dynamic right now. They are also installing technology upgrades and routing equipment.
 - iv. The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, September 6 from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. in City Hall, Room 333. All people are welcome.
 - v. The next First Precinct Court Watch is September 8 at 10:00 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. at the County Library Doty conference room.
 - vi. Spot Crime feature on the City’s website has lots of crime data collected. Crime downtown has escalated and businesses are concerned; it is becoming a very important issue to be addressed further. Mark suggests that a neighborhood crime watch group would really help and he is happy to get involved. Phil will send to Mark Renee’s contact information. Phil mentions an important consideration: how is the safety of the crime prevention group ensured on the street?
 - vii. Tim talked with Kip Richardson and there are plans to have a Minneapolis Police sub-station in Schaffer Richardson’s new building. It will feature a bathroom and small office space. Perhaps the NLNA can purchase a computer for the station. The space will also encourage a collaboration with MetroTransit police officers.
- h. Infrastructure – Tim Bildsoe

- i. Mark attended the meeting and has nothing new to report. It is hoped that part of the street along 8th Avenue can be preserved and not dug up entirely, rather just having the part closest to Washington Avenue rehabbed.
- ii. In 2019, streets on the west side of the neighborhood will be replaced and pedestrian crossings improvements will be made (to the tune of about \$9 million); the approval process is currently underway.
- iii. It was proposed to add bollards on 2nd to help with pedestrian crossing. The City liked the idea, but would be taking them back out in 60 days for the winter season, so nothing is going to happen between now and next year. Perhaps in the interim, buckets with pedestrian flags can be hung at intersections, a la Minnetonka's pedestrian crossing system.

IX. Unfinished Business

- a. New Business
 - i. Tim sent out CPP report.
 - ii. A motion is made by Tim, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the CPP report.
 - iii. Charitable organization report summarizes the budget and answers questions about board membership. A motion is made by Scott, seconded by Mark, and unanimously approved by the Board to have the reports signed.
- b. 2020 Partners - Tim Bildsoe
 - i. The topic was touched on previously.
- c. Farmers' Market Advisory Group Update - Mark Huting
 - i. A major renovation is planned for next year and will include new concrete walkways, handicap accessible ramps, and new bathrooms.
 - ii. If the NLNA could donate a planter, the farmers will then fill and take care of it. It is an issue that the Board can address in the springtime.

- X. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

Adjourned at 8:38 P.M.