



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

North Loop Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Notes

September 27, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 1st Street North

**Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Fred Dawe,
Scott Woller, Mark Huting, Andy Risvold, and Francesco Parisi**

- I. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 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 _____, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the August Meeting Minutes.**
- III. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by _____, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
- IV. Council Member Engagement – Jacob Frey, Blong Yang
 - A. Neither Councilmember Frey nor Yang were in attendance.
- V. Neighborhood Engagement – North Loop Neighbors
 - a. A resident came in to address the hazards of walking (presented by both cars and bikes).
 - i. Tim explained that City has scheduled roadwork improvements for 2019 that include pedestrian repairs throughout the neighborhood, which include a lot of changes to the sidewalk system, like curb extensions. There is also the speed wagon on 2nd. The Board has already requested measures from the City to make the area safer. Tim spoke to Inspector Sullivan, who will be in attendance at the October meeting and who could take up pedestrian issues. Tim is of opinion that the City is doubling down

on biking at the expense of auto drivers and pedestrians - the Board is well aware of this situation and has lobbied extensively at the City. There are several parking initiatives underway, too. 20/20 Partners has a task force inventorying parking.

- b. Dr. Michele Donald, a veterinarian, came in to publicize her clinic, Modern Love Veterinary, which is a full service small animal clinic, providing dentistry, x-ray, and standard medical services; she left her contact information.
- c. Craig Goodrich, who owns a business in West suburbs, but lives in the neighborhood, addresses the issues of a lack of parking and reckless bicyclists. He also mentions that participating in the cleanup on Washington Avenue was an interesting experience.
- d. Paul Anderson, from Lindsay Lofts, is a political activist; he mentions that he loves the North Loop and stresses his desire for good government.
- e. Leo Castricone, who has lived in the neighborhood for three years, agrees with Paul that the North Loop is a great neighborhood.

VI. Finance Report – Tim Bildsoe

- A. Tim has sent out an e-mail report with account balances. There is actually approximately \$16,700 more in the account due to savings on the planting project.

VII. Secretary's Report

- A. There is no report to present.

VIII. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

A. Planning & Zoning – Mark Huting

1. There were a lot of comments at the last meeting from the public - and not just from developers. The September minutes will be posted. Next month a couple developers will present; once they are confirmed their information will go out to the Board. Fred will be traveling so Jackie will chair next month's meeting. Regarding the P&Z checklist: the Committee agreed on a two-page detailed checklist for the Committee and a less detailed one for developers, both of which Mark will work on and present at the next meeting.

B. Community Engagement - Scott Woller

1. Scott mentions the successful installation of the bike station at Modest Brewery.
2. In the newsletter for October, the new plantings and bike station will be highlighted. Scott also requested that any other content be sent to him.
3. Tim announces that the next Washington Avenue cleanup is set for Saturday, October 28 at 10:00 A.M. at Whole Foods. Loring Park Neighborhood Associations wants to join.
4. Tim mentions that the annual meeting, scheduled for January 31, is the week before the Super Bowl and as such, it has been impossible to find

space for this meeting. Be The Match said that the NLNA can have space on January 24. This will all need to be discussed further and the bylaws need to be checked. Scott says that Be The Match may not allow food from outside vendors and security would have to be worked out; Tim says that he will talk more with Todd from Be The Match to work through all of these potential issues.

5. Fred suggests that the Board donate the extra signs to businesses and residential buildings (for their common areas) for them to hang. Scott mentions that some hardware on signs may need to be replaced and suggests retaining 20 or so for replacement purposes. Fred says that about 20-25 more will go up, so there will be roughly 50 in circulation. Scott recommends that the farmers market should get as many as they can hang.

C. North Loop Website – Diane Merrifield

1. Diane e-mailed the report yesterday.
2. She notes that the website monthly volume is over 7,000 again, with about 230 visitors per day. There is a lot of traffic originating from Illinois, California, and Wisconsin; many referrals were from a junior wrestling site.
3. Scott asks about posting content related to the Super Bowl; Diane responds that there are rules surrounding that type of content.

D. Neighborhood Safety - Phil Ailiff

1. Phil is not in attendance, so his update will be provided at next month's meeting.

E. Infrastructure - Tim Bildsoe

1. There is nothing to report regarding infrastructure.

F. Parks and Beautification - Mark Huting

1. As part of the public hearing required for fund allocation, Mark presents a slideshow, "Greening in the North Loop," outlining the main points and five priorities for beautification. The NLNA receives most of its funding from the City and there was a public notice published online. The five priorities are: tree planting, welcome monument, Washington Avenue & 2nd Street green connector, North Loop neighborhood park, and North Loop dog park.
2. The NLNA does the following:
 - a) Identifies projects;
 - b) Identifies and requests seed money;
 - c) Provides technical assistance and leadership;
 - d) Actively fundraises;
 - e) Volunteers; and
 - f) Works with the Park Board and secures Parks money.

(1) Parks will give two types of funds: Community Participation funding and Neighborhood Revitalization funding. Cash

would come from both sources (\$28,000). The public hearing is required to allocate this \$28,000.

3. For the planting priorities example, Mark shows the work already done on the Tractor Works property.
4. Regarding the welcome monument, Mark shows the proposed tower and urban meadow intended to demarcate an entrance to the North Loop. The meadow includes about an acre of land (pollinator friendly) at 3rd Avenue and Washington Avenue, all MNDOT property (who will also be providing the funds for the beautification). MNDOT would also widen the turning lanes and fix the crosswalk; the City has agreed to do the maintenance work.
5. For the Washington Avenue & 2nd Street connector project (by North Loop Fitness), a building would have to be blown out. Goldman Sachs owns the property and will donate the use and maintain the property (but still own it).
6. North Loop Park is proposed for the space behind 730 Lofts; it is costed out, but the surrounding property owners need to be engaged.
7. Tim explains that the \$28,000 would be used to seed fund these priority projects and this proposed allocation is why a public hearing is being held.
8. **A motion is made by Fritz, seconded by Francesco, and approved unanimously by the Board to allocate the \$28,000 to these priority projects.**

IX. Unfinished Business

A. New Business

1. Tim suggests that the Super Bowl can be an opportunity to reach businesspeople to promote the neighborhood even more. 20/20 Partners is putting together a pitch for the North Loop to house the Amazon headquarters and a marketing agency has already put together materials to promote the North Loop. Tim suggests coordinating with 20/20 Partners to work with these marketers, as he wants the same content in a smaller package.
2. Fritz plans to bring Matt Donnelley, formerly of the Orpheum, to set up a regular business networking event; Fritz will introduce Matt to the group via e-mail.
3. Fred mentions that a few of the plantings on Washington Avenue were killed by dogs.
4. Tim mentions that the University of Minnesota did a study on the neighborhood, titled "Is the North Loop Losing its Cool?" regarding the factors that contribute to making the neighborhood a heat island. Tim suggests that the Board should talk to developers to design buildings to reduce heat *and* increase green space. The students are invited in October to give a short presentation. This information will be good for future interactions with developers.

- B. 2020 Partners - Tim Bildsoe
 - 1. The topic was touched on previously, though it is noted by Tim that while interacting with developers, the need for a daycare and MPD satellite office is mentioned.
- C. Farmers' Market Advisory Group Update - Mark Huting
 - 1. NRP Money could be used for the NLNA to donate a planter.
- X. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017.

Adjourned at 8:28 P.M.