



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

North Loop Neighborhood Association

Board Meeting Notes

January 24, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Be The Match Building, 500 N 5th Street, Minneapolis

Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Katie Day, Francesco Parisi, Jackie Peacha, Andy Risvold, Scott Woller, Mark Huting, and Fred Dawe

1. January Board Meeting called to order at 6:08 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
3. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the November Meeting Minutes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement – North Loop Neighbors
 - a. This portion of the agenda will occur during the annual meeting.
5. Council Member Engagement
 - a. This portion of the agenda will occur during the annual meeting.
6. Finance Report – Tim Bildsoe
 - a) The Board just applied for the second half of the year's reimbursement of \$10,000. It should arrive shortly. The City reached out to Tim; once the new Board members are elected, they should go to City with the Treasurer and review account balances and reimbursements to date. Robert Thompson is no longer with the City, so they will be working with someone new. Also, the money for the website may be sent monthly.
7. Secretary's Report
 - a. There is no report to present.

8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

a. Planning & Zoning – Jackie Peacha

- There were no proposals to approve.
- The Committee has been talking about being more intentional and clear about the groups' expectations and the need for a collective vision statement about what is desired for the neighborhood, which should likely have its genesis at a higher level, a la Board. She suggests that the clearer and more specific they are, the likelier they are to face challenges and conflict; while the more vague they keep language, the more opportunity is permitted, but there is less direction. She acknowledges that the guidelines have been very helpful.
- Jackie suggests that after the Board retreat a joint meeting with P&Z is held. She also suggests potentially extending the retreat invite to P&Z.

b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller

- Tonight is the big night! The happy hour will take place from 6:30-7:30 P.M.
- At 7:30, Tim will begin with the introduction; then a few updates; then the election, with each candidate having one minute to present; ballots will then be collected; Mark will provide his update, followed by Scott and community engagement; and then Tim will introduce the Mayor and Rondo.
- Adam brought a proof of new brochure, which will be prepared and disseminated before the Super Bowl.

c. North Loop Website – Diane Merrifield

- Diane sent out the numbers today.

d. Neighborhood Safety – Phil Ailiff

- Phil is not present.

e. Infrastructure – Tim Bildsoe

- There is nothing to report.

f. Business – Andy Risvold

- There is nothing to report.

g. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting

- Mark sent out his update.

9. Unfinished Business

b) New Business

1. There is no new business to address.

9. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2017.

Adjourned at 6:19 P.M.



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Board Meeting Notes
January 24, 2018
7:30 P.M.**

Be The Match Building, 500 N 5th Street, Minneapolis

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Tim delivers the opening remarks and welcomes everyone to the Annual Meeting, an event for celebrating the North Loop. He thanks everyone for attending.
 - b. He announces that the bags and gloves on each chair are for the next cleanup party and were generously provided by the City. The event is scheduled for this Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at Whole Foods. Hot chocolate will be provided.
 - c. Tim asks everyone to introduce him or herself to his or her neighbors. He iterates that the main function of a neighborhood association is to encourage and promote engagement among neighbors and between neighborhoods and the City.
 - d. He also instructs everyone to participate in the exercise of placing stickers on priority checklists – an approach for gathering feedback from neighbors – going on in the hallway.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. The agenda had been approved at the business portion of the meeting earlier in the evening.
 - b. Tim thanks Diane for overseeing the website and Scott and Karen for managing the Facebook page. He encouraged people to visit these tremendous resources for updated North Loop information.
 - c. Tim thanks Be The Match, which donated the venue use and the food; he also thanks the presenters in the hallway, the City, the other NLNA Board members, the Planning & Zoning Committee members (who review proposed developments), Alyssa Kelley for the meeting minutes, David Frank for being instrumental in making the North Loop a great community, businesses, the North Loop Clinic, and all the night's attendees. This will be a great kick-off event for the Super Bowl!

3. Board Election

- a. Process Overview – There are six open seats; terms are for two years. The Board must be comprised 60% of residents. Nominations were open until January 22. The League of Woman Voters will be the collecting ballots and 25 people need to present for a quorum (which is achieved). The Board is a working volunteer board, which meets once a month, with frequent engagement opportunities.
- b. Steve Fletcher, the newly-elected council member for the 3rd Ward, introduces himself. He looks forward to being great partners and staying involved with the association. If anyone has any questions for him, please get in touch with his office.
- c. There are no nominations from the floor presented.
- d. Candidate Introductions
 - Tim Bildsoe: is the current President, moved to the neighborhood from Plymouth, where he was a former City councilmember, three years ago; he is very active in civic organizations and has very much enjoyed being part of such a great Board with a great mission; he contends that there is lots left to do and that he would love to be a part of it.
 - Irina Brown: she has lived in the North Loop for 10 years; Whitney Square is her permanent home; she has worked in the finance and accounting fields, and previously worked at Target Corporation for 5 years; she is very passionate about greening the neighborhood and loves the work the Board has already done, especially the work on boulevard areas; she is also a proponent of protecting the neighborhood's historic nature and ensuring that neighbors' voices are heard.
 - Daniel Mays: he has lived in 710 Lofts for 11 years and made the intentional choice to raise his family in the North Loop; he would love to see a denser neighborhoods, with people of all backgrounds; he is the owner of Stinson Wine and Spirits in Northeast; he is a bike commuter and avid urban gardener; he is a member of the 710 Lofts landscaping committee; and is just amazed and grateful for the growth in the neighborhood.
 - Diane Merrifield: she has served on the Board for six years and has been a resident of 5th Avenue Lofts for 12 years; she has witnessed the incredible change in the neighborhood that has transpired over a relatively short period of time; she owns an independent marketing practice and serves as a past board chair of the Minnesota Center for Book Arts on Washington Avenue.
 - Francesco Parisi: originally from Italy; is a professor at the University of Minnesota's Law School; loves the neighborhood for its historic appeal, a la Rome, and wants to help to preserve its historic character; his priorities include: public arts, greening, and most importantly historic preservation, as it is hard to make history, but easy to destroy it.

- Scott Woller: is the pastor Corner Church and owner of Corner Coffee; he and his wife have two high school-aged children; they now live in the Sexton Building, but has been involved in the NLNA for over a decade; at first, he thought of it like a high school student body official, advocating for “Coke machines and dances,” but he has since seen the real value of the important work - networking, meaningful engagement, events, and activities.
 - Elliot Zismer: he is a six-year resident of the neighborhood and also lives in 710 Lofts; he has worked in real estate development, consulting, and health care; he hopes to become part of the Board to continue its work and to ensure that as development continues, neighborhood remains one we can love.
- e. Representative Ray Dehn announces himself to the crowd and thanks everyone for their presence and support.

4. Growth and Vitality of the North Loop – Tim Bildsoe

- a. Engagement activities included: Washington Avenue Cleanups, National Night Out, December Movie Night, Open Streets, and the Candy Grab
- b. Infrastructure – \$9 million in street and pedestrian improvements are planned for 2019 as outlined in the City’s capital improvement plan with the help of Councilmember Frey; improvements will be similar to those made to 6th Avenue. The City is here with a visual display; it will be sending materials in the mail as well.
- c. Affordable Housing – The NLNA contributed \$204,000 to Youth Link and Beacon Great River Landing project.
- d. This past year, the following opened for business: Prodeo and Metro Charter Schools; two new residential developments, Variant and Borealis; the Hewing Hotel and its bar and restaurant, the Fillmore. The following are under construction: The Nordic and Weather-Rite Building and the 10th Avenue ramp.
- e. Partnerships include: the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Associations and the Warehouse District Business Association, the City, and 2020 Partners, which is a business enterprise association supporting continued development in the North Loop. The NLNA is always looking for more partners.
- f. Tim is also happy to announce that there will be a left-hand turn signal installed at the traffic light at the intersection of Washington Avenue and the 394 exit.

5. Greening and Beautification – Mark Huting

- a. Mark contends that a neighborhood is more than buildings, streets, and concrete: it is green space, trees and public art and that these elements are especially important in the North Loop.
- b. He announces that 14 trees and planting beds have been added on Washington Avenue in front of the TractorWorks building and in front of 801 Lofts; the 800 and 900 blocks of Washington Avenue are officially tree-lined.
- c. The City has planted 40 well-established street trees throughout the neighborhood.

- d. The following plans are for 2018:
- The area in front of the Copham Building on the 600 block of Washington will have perennial flowers and planting beds; the tree grates will be removed and replaced with 5x25 lined extended beds with pavers.
 - The lack of connection from Washington Ave to 2nd Street makes it difficult to get to the River. Linear parks are part of the City's Master Plan and the NLNA is working to have one near North Loop Fitness. The proposal is to have a non-historic building removed and replaced with a pocket park.
 - A "Welcome to the North Loop" Tower at the unused space at the intersection of Washington Avenue and the 394 exit ramp, is designed to be made of core ten steel and glass with fiber optics allowing for a changing light scheme; an urban meadow behind the sign will be almost an acre in size and feature native plantings and pine trees.
 - For a North Loop Park at the 700 block of 3rd Street, the NLNA is looking to use park and dedication fees to purchase the land and then to being to solicit donations for construction of the park.
 - Plans for a dog park running from 6th Avenue to 10th Avenue, approximately 30 feet wide are currently underway; the NLNA is talking with the City, which controls the land. Fred Dawe is leading the efforts.
 - If anyone would like to help with fundraising or make a donation to one of these project, please contact Mark at markahu@aol.com.

6. Community Engagement – Scott Woller

- a. Scott highlights the fact that improvements (including infrastructure improvements) were made to the neighborhood because people are engaged, because they contribute their labor and their time to various efforts. He suggests that people who are interested in the NLNA: attend meetings; volunteer; promote events; plan an event; get to know your neighbors; look out for your neighbors!
- b. He also presents photos from the successful events of the past year and upcoming ones, too, including:
- Candy Grab, March 31, 2018. There were many kids last year, despite the weather.
 - Clean Up Event, January 27, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. at Whole Foods
 - National Night Out, August 7, 2018
 - Winter Movie Showing at Target Field (Elf),
 - Open Streets

7. Special Guests

- a. Mayor Jacob Frey
- The Mayor complements the NLNA, calling it an extraordinary organization in not only one of the fastest growing neighborhoods in country, but one of the most forward thinking and progressive neighborhoods – one that values density, diversity, retail activity, and affordable housing.

- The Mayor prioritizes safe communities and affordable housing throughout the entire City; police/community relations and economic inclusion will be essential to achieving those goals.
- b. Chief of Police Medaria Arradondo
- While engagement is one of his top priorities, *the* top is trust. One of the hardest challenges is how to measure feelings of safety – and not just those feelings of safety at night in an entertainment district – but those of families, in schools, in places of worship, etc.
 - Traffic and enforcement will remain important but reducing violent crime will be the priority and combining engagement, social service delivery and the availability of affordable housing, is one comprehensive and effective way to help reach this goal. The Chief thanks the NLNA for its support of affordable housing and the role that it plays in comprehensive community development and in providing a better community for everyone.
8. Remarks and Adjourn
- a. Tim explains the possibility of having a DID-type organization in the North Loop, but also that it is a complicated endeavor and can require a substantial funding. There will be an exploratory meeting on February 13. The info is posted on the website. He also mentions the possibility of a sub-station for a beat police officer.
 - b. Tim thanks everyone for their support and attendance and asks that they support neighborhood businesses, especially those who contributed to the giveaways.
9. The results are in! The newly-elected Board members are: Irina Brown, Daniel Mays, Diane Merrifield, Francesco Parisi, Scott Woller, Scott; and Tim Bildsoe.
10. The meeting adjourns at 8:45 P.M.