



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes  
May 30, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 1st Street North**

Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Daniel Mays, Jackie Peacha, Andy Risvold, Scott Woller, Francesco Parisi, Fritz Kroll, Irina Brown, and Fred Dawe

1. May Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Fritz, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
  - a. Tim has printed agendas available on the counter.
3. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the April Meeting minutes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. A resident of River Station voices her concern over the decline in pedestrian safety and the increasingly violent environment. She contends that panhandling has become dangerous and public transit has become violent; in fact, she was physically attacked on the Blue Line when she tried to intervene and stop another attack. She wants to make sure that City elected officials are aware of what is happening. She is leery of Hennepin Avenue especially and thinks that the cops are short-staffed. There have been recent break-ins at her building. Fred concurs. Tim acknowledges the NLNA's support of the new facility for those released from prison on 5<sup>th</sup> and the desire to present the residents an opportunity to thrive.
  - b. Beth Shogren is the executive director of Green Minneapolis, the nonprofit conservancy that programs the Commons, which is dubbed "your neighborhood park." Beth discusses efforts to actively program the park, which include: games, periodicals, ping pong, food trucks, partnerships with arts organizations, movie series (to begin shortly and to be BYOB), Mill City Tuesday evening farmers market, fitness series, a poet in residence, and in September, the free orchestra concert in partnership with Project Success, which brings 300 Minneapolis Public

School children to the event. For more information, visit [www.commonmpls.com](http://www.commonmpls.com). Councilmember Fletcher's office hours will be held in the park next week.

- c. Nick Chipowitz, Chair of the Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission, one of 50 commissions throughout the City, and has 8 elected officials and 8 appointed members, comprised of representatives from cultural communities, neighborhoods, and nonprofits. The future of neighborhoods as organizations in Minneapolis is in question, especially as to how they are funded after 2019, as the TIF money will no longer be available. The City is sharing a roadmap, to which NCEC issued a response. There will be work groups with citizen resident participation surrounding the following issues: 1. Funding structure, participatory guidelines; 2. Governance advisory structure; and 3. City-wide and community engagement policy. Each group has 5 neighborhood residents. There is more information posted on the NLNA website and Tim encourages participation.
  - d. Tim Drew, City of Minneapolis, Parking Manager, oversees the 16 ramps, 20,000 ramp spaces, and 8,000 street spaces for the City. Parking rates are in place to encourage turnover, especially higher rates. City parking rates are intended to be in competition with off-street lots and often provide a cheaper option. At this time, the City is having the code abbreviated and reassessed and as a result, hourly rates are going to increase. In addition to the increase in prices, the time limits are going to be more thoroughly enforced through the use of a license plate recognition system, which is currently in development. The City ordinance requires a vehicle to park in a different spot once the time limit has been reached (and one at least one block away from the prior space used). Towing cannot occur until 5 tickets are issued. The new rates and enforcement mechanisms are set to be deployed later this year. It will remain lawful to park on Washington Avenue overnight after 10:00 P.M. Scott mentions that the biggest discouragement for business owners is when customers say they can't find any parking spot; something to increase turnover would help. The plethora of construction workers also add to the demand. Tim contends that commercial loading zones mimic meters, so there will likely be an increase there, too. Vehicles parked in a taxi or bus zone are immediate tow eligible. The \$0.25 per hour rate is being eliminated Citywide. Tim asks for input and mentions that the City is open to 3 hours, instead of 2-hour limits. The money collected goes into the parking fund, which goes to street infrastructure. Tim Drew will send a summary of rules to Tim Blidsoe.
5. Councilmember Engagement
- a. Councilmember Ellison was not present.
  - b. Councilmember Fletcher – The City has been working diligently to identify strategies that will be more effective. By the numbers, the North Loop is one of the safest neighborhoods in the City; violent crime in downtown has also been reduced 30%, but it is acknowledged that certain behaviors project a different perception. The councilmember himself has also experienced unsettling behavior on transit and can relate. The City is finding that interactions involve the same people over and over again, especially those that aren't violent, but just unsettling and uncomfortable. There are significant efforts underway to target this group and connect them to social workers to address underlying issues and reduce repeat offenses. There is also the group violence intervention task force: one of the biggest predictors of who will commit gun crimes are those who have been victims themselves; the task force has been initiated to try to break the

cycle. The City has approved improved camera systems for the A, B, and C ramps, with point and zoom capabilities. The City does not have a plan in place to hire 100 new officers, as some news reports have indicated. The councilmember contends that sworn officers move into management and out of action and create a void; if there could be civilian efforts to fill management positions, so that police are allowed to remain in the field, that might be a more effective approach. Fritz feels that a police presence is very helpful; he asks if police can be reallocated from other neighborhoods if there isn't a need for them there. Irina mentions the motorcycle noise from 11:00 P.M. to 3:00 A.M. The councilmember admits that noise violations are difficult to enforce, but modified mufflers are illegal and easier to identify and ticket.

- c. The councilmember and his staff are working on ideas for how to stop the evictions problem; he is also impressed with the really good pipeline of mixed income and affordable housing projects to be developed.
  - d. The councilmember had a successful meeting with about 25 residents; they discussed pedestrian safety, traffic stops, snow plowing, and other road issues. The councilmember, MPD and Public Works were all present. Tim expresses his thanks for the signs on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as the increased traffic stops, and more police, including the squad car on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue; he thanks the councilmember for his quick work, as these were in place just a week after the neighborhood meeting. Lieutenant Peterson indicated that the force just doesn't have the manpower to staff the North Loop (as an officer was enforcing traffic, he missed three 911 calls). The councilmember admits that police staffing is a very complex issue, especially within the union context.
6. Finance Report – Irina Brown
- a. The account is close to \$45,800, which is down a little bit. Irina will continue to send the invites.
  - b. Check writing turnover process is a little slow, but it is a good process that should stay in place.
7. Secretary's Report – Jackie Peacha
- a. There is nothing to report.
8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports
- a. Planning & Zoning – Jackie Peacha
    1. Update provided by Schaffer Richardson: the Redwell is now a 100% affordable development, which the Committee sees as a good move for the neighborhood. The fewer units that they are proposing also helps the overall parking ratio.
    2. Kimley Horn came to present about the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction. There have been some changes from the time KH had presented to the Board to when they presented to P&Z. Also, rather than an informational presentation, KM asked for a letter of approval of the concept layout, which can be deferred for another month, as it is not needed until July. Jackie will send out the drawings to the Board.
    3. Kris Lang put together a plan for promotion for the P&Z agenda; she is to meet with Scott and Diane. Jackie passes out the communications plan for everyone's review and input.
    4. Tim contends that the City needs to do a better job of notifying residents of pending development projects. Often, notices for those only 350 to 750 feet from property line are insufficient. There needs to be more

- robust signage on lots with proposed development, as well as contact information listed.
5. The Foundry redevelopment is facing some finance issues, so is currently on hold. Part of the property was sold, but the same plans for redevelopment are still in place.
  6. An architect firm has been selected for the Federal Reserve parking ramp.
- b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
1. Food truck fair was a *huge* success with 13 trucks and approximately 5,000 people in attendance (and only a \$1,000 budget)! The social media marketing went really well. With approximately 100 volunteer hours, this was the biggest and most well-attended event in NLNA history. For next year, additional sponsors and volunteer time will be crucial, as will additional trucks and restrooms and better waste management. A beer garden section would be great, too. It will be a great opportunity to have an official NLNA presence. A tentative date of May 19, 2019 is set.
  2. This year's National Night Out is Tuesday, August 7.
  3. A potential location for the flea market might be underneath the ramp at 4<sup>th</sup> Street. A street chalk art event is proposed for August 19 on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue by the Fed or near Sunrise Bank's parking lot or Duffy Paper on Washington Avenue. The idea is to block off some street parking and have the drawings on the sidewalk and/or surrounding spaces.
- c. North Loop Website and Social Media Outreach – Diane Merrifield and Jackie Peacha
1. Diane sent the report out yesterday. April numbers are really down from last year's, but that is likely weather driven. May's numbers should be back up.
  2. The outline of initial plans for website changes has been prepared; Diane will resend. She asks for the Board's input by a date TBD.
  3. Jackie is to meet with a website developer to determine what can and cannot be supported and the priorities for the new version of the site.
- d. Historic Preservation and Public Art – Mark Huting and Francesco
1. Mark is interested in hiring Shawn McCann, an outdoor 3D muralist, to do a public art piece.
  2. Another option is for the outdoor gallery space at 700 Lofts through the nonprofit arts organization, which provides access to top quality international artists who wouldn't want compensation, just funding to cover paint supplies and travel. Jerrit Bromley is the president of 700 Lofts, which has already granted approval for the space. Francesco is assuming a budget of \$10,000 to clean and paint the space.
  3. The overall intent and strategy for the work is not yet well defined. There are opportunities related both to PR and historic context. The NLNA needs to talk with the surrounding property owners.
  4. 801 Lofts is set to leave the historic metal staircase structure exposed and unpainted. During tuckpointing, the contractor removed the paint from the steel and it has since oxidized. The HOA has no plan to repaint, just to add a clear coat to preserve the stair.
- e. North Loop Business Engagement – Andy Risvold
1. The Twins want a lot of money to host a happy hour. After the draft they will have more time to meet and discuss an arrangement.

2. Brewery passport – Modest doesn't anticipate it being financially feasible for them. A suggestion is made to maybe limit the time or amount the passport affords.
  - f. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting and Fred Dawe
    1. The tree planting provided by Greco will have grates, so there won't be a need for mulch. It will include 10 trees and concrete replacement, but no flower beds.
    2. The City has put planting trees on hold because of the heat. The past winter was extremely harsh on perennials; many plantings were lost on Washington Avenue. Everything is warranted, but it is still bad news, as there are 48 dead street trees and 10 highly stressed trees.
    3. Fundraising has been slower than anticipated for the Gateway Tower and Gardens Project; the Twins are not that interested and other donors and contributing smaller amount than expected. They have enough money for plants, but not for the excavation. There will be nearly 500 plants in first phase. Mark plans to contact Amazon to see if they are interested.
    4. Pedestrian plaza project is still going strong, but key investors are waffling a bit. Greco is having the re-bid.
    5. Dog Park – Fred is still exploring the survey route: he received a formal quote for \$6,000 for 5 blocks; maybe they should try for a "not to exceed" quote or have just one block surveyed instead. A developer who owns a parcel next to the Weatherite Building reached out to the Board and unsolicited, suggested his land for a voluntary dog park! He eventually wants to put in high-end condos, but not just yet, and is happy to pay for the dog park now, which he will maintain.
  - g. Neighborhood Safety – Daniel Mays
    1. The first precinct had 251 reported major crimes in the last month, 12 of which were in the North Loop. There were also 405 small crimes in the precinct, but the neighborhood-level statistics are not as readily available. Daniel met with neighborhood representatives last week from the precinct and they talked about a potential neighborhood alliance to organize safety solutions. There will be a follow-up meeting regarding pedestrian safety at the end of the summer. There were 69 traffic stops in the neighborhood in April and 19 had citations issued. Dan is very interested in the May numbers and will report at the June meeting.
9. Unfinished Business
- a. Tim suggests planning for the annual meeting begin. Volunteers include Irina, Scott, and Fritz (who will work on prizes again). A request is made for the band from food truck festival.
  - b. Tim reminds the group that the City helps prepare the AG's report and the tax return for free. **A motion is made by Scott, seconded by Daniel, and approved unanimously by the Board to approve the AG's report and the tax return.**
10. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

Adjourned at 9:43 P.M.