



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes  
September 26, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

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

Attendees: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Jackie Peacha, Daniel Mays, Scott Woller, Andy Risvold, Fritz Kroll, Fred Dawe, and Mark Huting.

1. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Fred, 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 Fritz, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the August Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Candidates for Hennepin County Commissioner – either candidate will make history, as the County board has never elected a person of color.
    1. Irene Fernando - DFL endorsed, identifies as Filipino and was raised by immigrant parents. Irene is the founder of Students Today Leaders Forever. Her political approach is “data-centered, imaginative, and people-centered”.
    2. Blong Yang – identifies as Hmong and was raised by refugee parents from Laos. Grew up in California and came to Minnesota for law school. He has previous experience as an elected official on the City Council.
    3. Both candidates support the following issues raised by the Board:
      1. Improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety at the intersection of Washington and 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N.
      2. Work with sheriff’s office to enforce the existing traffic laws on Washington Ave.
      3. Create a pedestrian crosswalk at Washington and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave N.
      4. Find a different site for HERC.
      5. Adopt the City’s Vision Zero policy at the County level.
      6. Do not ask for more County dollars (do not raise taxes).

- b. Neighbor concerns about lack of signage and pedestrian safety at intersection of Plymouth and W River Pkwy next to Opus development, and at 8<sup>th</sup> Ave N near the Itasca Lofts.
    - 1. NLNA will circle back to Opus and talk to the City about possible signage. Stop sign is certainly needed but will be difficult to get. Convincing the City to review the traffic pattern at those intersections would be a good start.
  - c. Michelle, Freehouse Manager- Freehouse now has a semi-private event space available for rental. They also have ticketed events coming up that are open to the public – check the events out on their website [www.freehouseempls.com](http://www.freehouseempls.com). These events will get posted on NLNA’s website events calendar as well.
- 5. Councilmember Engagement – Councilmembers Fletcher & Ellison
    - a. Councilmembers not present.
  - 6. Finance Report – Irina Brown
    - a. Tim sent out report to Board.
    - b. Board member request to clarify and tighten the reimbursement process.
  - 7. Secretary’s Report – Jackie Peacha
    - a. Jackie will check on Board election statuses for 2019.
  - 8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports
    - a. Planning + Zoning – Jackie Peacha
      - 1. 120 1<sup>st</sup> St N, Solhem
        - 1. P+Z is in favor of this mixed-use project but was unable to approve a letter of support due to not reaching quorum. The project contains 196 residential units, 20 of which are live/work. 20% of the units will be naturally affordable at 80% AMI due to the small size of the units. There will also be commercial space, an activated alleyway, and an abundance of parking stalls. Proposed materials are high quality.
        - 2. **Motion is made by Jackie, seconded by Fritz, and unanimously approved by the Board to write a letter of support for the project, given that they provide public notification and signage.**
      - 2. Federal Reserve
        - 1. Fed group visited with 212 Lofts residents and then with Tim and Jackie. Fed is open to feedback on new development, as design work has not yet started. NLNA advocating for the following: green space with potential for a bike repair station; height of development does not impair resident sightlines and natural lighting; parking ramp developed underground with parking available to the public; increased security and safety measures; study of the traffic pattern on 1<sup>st</sup> St; care and attention paid to how they connect to the river. Designs will be submitted by late 2018, early 2019. Development scheduled to begin Spring 2019.
        - 2. NLNA and 212 Lofts residents plan to draft a unified neighborhood “position paper” for the above points of advocacy.
    - b. Livability and Safety – Daniel Mays

1. Violent and property crime rates continue to be lower than 2017 rates, which can be attributed to a decrease in robberies in the 1<sup>st</sup> precinct. There were lots of traffic stops and citations in August.
  2. In terms of pedestrian safety, conversations with Councilmember Fletcher will focus on the intersections by Opus and Itasca.
  - c. Website and Social Media – Diane Merrifield & Jackie Peacha
    1. Site traffic volume is down but we still had 5,700 site visits in August (~185/day), which is on trend with the season. Facebook continues to have the highest social media engagement.
    2. A North Loop resident currently owns the Instagram account “North Loop Minneapolis”– we can buy the account from her for \$500.
      1. **Motion is made by Daniel, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to buy, and consequently own, the North Loop Minneapolis Instagram account.**
  - d. North Loop Business Engagement – Andy Risvold
    1. Owner of Queen Anna’s fashion boutique wants to start a “Small Business Saturday” crawl with holiday displays in storefronts. Queen Anna would do all the PR, but would like help with marketing (use NLNA logo on materials) and with the City to get meters turned off for the crawl. The crawl would be paired with a philanthropic coat drive as well as a post-crawl celebration for the employees of participating small businesses.
  - e. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting & Fred Dawe
    1. Neighborhood planting day was a success! Received lots of praise from the community and recognition from local news sources.
    2. Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> St is becoming more of a possibility – the project is being constantly referred to as “two buildings and a park”. More activity is expected in about a year.
  - f. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
    1. 2019 Annual Meeting
      1. Postcard design same as last year.
      2. “Red carpet” photo opportunity for guests in front of NLNA logo backdrop.
      3. Tote bag for guests filled with swag from local businesses. Discussed tote bag style options, and opted for a version similar to that of Whole Foods’ totes.
9. Unfinished Business
- a. Nothing to report
10. New Business
- a. Would like to construct a “little free library” on 4<sup>th</sup> St and see how much the neighborhood interacts with it, and if other boxes start popping up in the neighborhood. The box itself (with an industrial design aesthetic) costs \$349 and the post costs \$65.
    1. **Motion is made by Fritz, seconded by Fred, and unanimously approved by the Board to start a neighborhood “little free library”.**
11. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018.

Adjourned at 8:46 P.M.