



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes**

**May 29, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

Colonial Warehouse Co-Working Lounge, 212 3rd Avenue North

9 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Mark Huting, Bri Sharkey-Smith, Mike Binkley, Irina Brown, Daniel Mays, Francesco Parisi, and Scott Woller.

Neighbors in attendance: Representatives from River Station, Renaissance on the River, and Tower Lofts.

1. President Tim Bildsoe called the May Board Meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Daniel, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
3. **Motion is made by Mark, seconded by Irina, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the April Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Representative from Renaissance on the River has edits to the meeting minutes from March 27:
 1. Section 7a) 1. Duane Carter from FRB vocalized that ROTR was in support of the project.
 2. Section 7a) 2. ROTR requests moving the ramp east a few feet away from the tracks to increase distance from ROTR and reduce shading.
 3. ROTR requests that the NLNA rescinds their current letter of support and amend it to say that ROTR does not support the project.
 4. Board response:
 - a) Board recalls two representatives from the ROTR Board that were engaged with the FRB, and those representatives did not vocalize rejection of the project plan. Communication breakdown between ROTR residents and the ROTR Board is largely to blame for their lack of engagement with the project. NLNA is going to be more proactive in communication of proposed projects moving forward

and hopes to eliminate a lot of these communication breakdowns between the City, developers, and the neighborhood.

- b) Board is happy to amend the letter to say that the FRB does not have strong support from ROTR.
 - b. Representative from River Station is exploring rooftop solar initiatives – River Station will start its roof repair cycle in 2021 with plans to make it ready to install solar panels. They talked with Xcel about how they charge for energy, and it was made clear that we can reduce peak demand charges with various solar initiatives in the North Loop.
 - c. Corner Church is hosting a service on Sunday, June 2 at Target Field.
 - d. North Loop Downtown LLC wants to develop a 1-acre dog park at 816 N 5th street (by Inbound) at no cost to the neighborhood.
 - 1. Park aesthetic is industrial with shipping containers as the main material. Shipping containers will be painted (graffiti art by local artists for industrial feel) and will be built out to serve as fencing, shading, and heating. Potentially even build containers out to serve as a coffee stand or cafe.
 - 2. Plan to provide parking.
 - 3. Will have doggie daycare/grooming/boarding services on-site in the future
 - 4. Park features: two-door gate entrances, signs with rules and regulations, surveillance cameras, Fido fountains, waste bags/containers, park benches, and solar-powered flood lighting.
 - 5. Landscaping will include a tall fescue grass mix with pet-friendly plants and red maple trees, as well as asphalt/cement/decomposed granite trails that are accessible to those with wheelchairs or strollers.
 - 6. Will also include play structures and small pools for the dogs.
 - e. Board expressed some concern about the park being completely enclosed by shipping containers and the blocked visibility from the street. It is a safety/security concern if there's no view into the park from the street.
 - 1. Response: There will be several entrances into the park with visibility from the street and the 5th Street facing side of the park will be in full view of the street.
 - f. North Loop Downtown LLC requesting letter of support from NLNA. They stated they have asked the city and do not require a permit of any sort.
 - 1. **Motion is made by Irina, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the dog park, with emphasis on the importance of creating visibility from the street into the park.**
- 5. Councilmember Engagement – Councilmembers Fletcher & Ellison
 - a. Councilmembers not present.
 - 6. Finance Report – Irina Brown
 - a. Checking and savings accounts total \$49,001. Year-to-date we are in a better financial position than last year.
 - 7. Secretary's report – Mark Huting
 - a. Nothing to report.
 - 8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

- a. Planning + Zoning – Jackie Peacha
 - 1. FRB Parking Ramp – Updates
 - a) **Motion is made by Daniel, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to amend NLNA’s initial letter of support of the FRB project to include the concerns of Renaissance on the River residents and state that the FRB does not have support from Renaissance on the River.**
 - 2. Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive City Plan
 - a) The 2040 plan categorizes the property where the proposed TMBR building is located as 2-6 stories when in fact the building code and the HPC guidelines state that it is a 2-10 story area. This discrepancy in the Plan was brought to light by developers and the NLNA Board. City Engineer has stated this is an error in the 2040 plan and will be fixed at the next revision.
 - b) NLNA will extended an invitation to City reps to talk about this discrepancy and discuss what it means to have a letter of support from the NLNA. What happens to that letter? Can the City notify us when a development application comes in so we’re notified of the project earlier?
 - c) NLNA will also invite Councilmember Fletcher to hear our concerns about this particular error in the 2040 plan and discuss what NLNA should do when city documents conflict.
 - d) Mark Huting stated it is important to remember that the 2040 plan is only a guidelines document, not the law. The building code is the law and supports 2-10 stories.
 - e) Francesco Parisi also commented that during the public review of the 2040 plan, he felt there would not have been acceptance had there been a 2-10 story designation in this part of the North Loop.
- b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
 - 1. 2019 North Loop Food Truck Fair
 - a) Estimated attendance was 2,000. Social media engagement “click” count was 22,000. 18 food trucks, 9 sponsors, 350 volunteer hours, expenses totaled about \$2,300, income totaled \$1,800. Cost to neighborhood was only about \$480. Overall a great success!
 - 2. Collected 5 bags of trash at the clean-up event on Saturday, May 25th.
 - 3. National Night Out event is next – Tuesday, August 6. NLNA will host the event at Target Field Station as in the past. It would be ideal in the future that other buildings would also host the event and people could stop in at multiple locations.
 - a) Tower Lofts rep will help us engage their residents and connect us to other downtown building managers to help spread the word and encourage participation.
- c. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting
 - 1. Tree Planting
 - a) Requests from DRG and Harvester Lofts for boulevard tree replacement and planting bed installation. We provided renderings and cost estimates, awaiting a response.
 - b) City has planted 62 new trees all over the neighborhood. We’ve arranged an on-demand watering program with S&S for

\$8.50/tree. Our program will water 38 of the trees which do not have irrigation.

- c) Requested 5 - 5' diameter used concrete planters from City to place on Washington but waiting for confirmation from City.

2. Welcome Park

- a) MNDOT is working on rain garden design for a fall planting.
- b) Maintenance donations up to \$4,500.
- c) North Loop Monument rendering passed around. Still need roughly \$50,000 to build.

a. Motion is made by Daniel, seconded by Francesco, and unanimously approved by to the Board to have NLNA pledge \$13,000 for the monument.

3. Pedestrian Greenway

- a) Tractor Works has agreed to City terms for property set aside in order to secure city park status. Written agreements have been prepared for 20-year easement. City has agreed to outsource fundraising to Green Minneapolis for this project and the City Park as a combined effort.

4. North Loop Park

- a) Waiting for final approval of Park Board and Schafer Richardson (property owner)

5. Community Garden/Dog Park

- a) Area being sought for garden has changed to grassy hillside behind Cider Works. City still reviewing.
 - a. Encroachment on public land permit says we have sole responsibility for maintenance, we have to get the soil tested, maintain an 8-ft pedestrian walkway, leave it open to the public, etc. Garden must be taken down by Nov 1.

b. Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to have NLNA donate \$500 to prep the garden for neighborhood use.

d. Historic Preservation and Public Art – Francesco Parisi

1. Public Art

- a) Francesco made minor changes to agreement with Tower Lofts about public art/signage in the tunnel – project is a go!

e. Website and Social Media – Diane Merrifield and Mike Binkley

- 1. We had 8,000 visits in April which is the largest number of visits we've ever experienced in a month. Last April we had 4,500 visits. This is largely attributed to Mike's videos circulating on Facebook.
- 2. Modifications to website include content clean-up and re-organization.
- 3. Mike has been interviewing and continues to look for interviews with developers and business owners in the neighborhood.

9. Unfinished business

- a. No unfinished business.

10. New Business

- a. Approve charitable organization annual report for the attorney general, filled out by accountant. Confirms our nonprofit status and budget.

1. Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Daniel, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve NLNA's charitable organization annual report.

b. Add "Civic Engagement" priority category to agendas, with Bri Sharkey-Smith as the Board representative.

11. The next board meeting will be held on June 26, 2019.

Adjourned at 9:30 P.M.