



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**June 26, 2019  
7:00 P.M.**

**Colonial Warehouse Co-Working Lounge, 212 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North**

8 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Bri Sharkey-Smith, Irina Brown, Daniel Mays, Mike Binkley, Dana Swindler, and Mark Huting.

Neighbors in attendance: Representatives are present from River Station, Tower Lofts, and ElseWarehouse.

1. June Board Meeting called to order at 7:04 P.M.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Mike, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with the following additions:**
  - a. Discuss filling Jackie Peacha's role on the Board.
3. **Motion is made by Daniel, seconded by Mike, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the May Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. River Station representative has concerns about crimes occurring near their property: Smoking, marijuana, graffiti on gates, trees yanked out of the ground.
    1. Tim has met with Renee Allen about these issues. Will be an ongoing conversation with Renee and MPD.
  - b. Trees need re-planting. Potholes need to be filled. Tim has talked with Councilmember Fletcher, who said that the City will fill potholes after construction is finished (~Fall 2019). Tim suggests that neighbors call Fletcher themselves and leave a message - be specific about which potholes must be filled. 311 is responsive, but it's not an efficient means of addressing the potholes.
5. Councilmember Engagement – Councilmember Fletcher
  - a. Councilmember Fletcher not present. He will be present at the July P+Z meeting. Tim has stressed to Councilmember Fletcher that his attendance is important at Board meetings – we hope he attends more regularly in the future.

6. Finance Report – Irina Brown
  - a. \$50,250 total in the bank.
  - b. Brady and Fritz-Kroll are going to financially support the NLNA website again.
  
7. Secretary’s report – Mark
  - a. Nothing to report.
  
8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports
  - a. Planning + Zoning – Irina Brown
    1. Snack Bar presented at P+Z last week. Concept of the Snack Bar was presented by owners of Bar La Grassa. Snack Bar will be a casual pizza-by-the-slice restaurant + other appetizers and small plates. Reservations and walk-ins welcome. Looking for a letter of support for their liquor license – they intend to have a full bar.
      1. **Motion is made by Mark, seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the Board to write a letter of support for the Snack Bar’s liquor license.**
    2. Tim suggests P+Z should request that Councilmember Fletcher change the ordinance for the required area of notification from developers. Ordinance should expand to 1,000 feet from property line – folks within this area should receive notification for liquor licenses and major residential development.
      1. P+Z should also request that developers buy a NLNA sign to put on their property, indicating that NLNA is aware of the project and that the developer has presented at a P+Z meeting. Sign will include brief information about the proposed development and CPED’s phone number.
      2. Use Mike’s media sources to help broadcast developments.
    3. Most P+Z Committee members need to renew their terms. Irina has passed around a membership proposal with the names, length of terms, and brief bios of both new and returning Committee members.
 

Summary:

      1. Zachary Schaaf – 1-year term
      2. Carrie Reardon – 1-year term (new)
      3. Fred Dawe – 1-year term
      4. Jo Vos – 2-year term
      5. Francesco Parisi – 2-year term
      6. Mark Huting – 2-year term
      7. Alice Eichholz – 2-year term
      8. David Miller – 2-year term
      9. Irina Brown – 1-year term
      10. Matt Sharkey-Smith – 1-year term (new)
      11. Joe McErlane – 2-year term
      12. Missy Rotterdam – 1-year term
        - a. Missy is not listed in the membership proposal, but is here tonight to advocate for her membership. She is a longtime 5th Ave Lofts resident and a realtor in the area. She wants to have a voice in the midst of new developments, and wants to work to bring more neighbors to meetings so their voices can be heard as well.
      13. Jerrit Bromley and Joshua Stein are leaving the Committee.

14. Goal is to have 15 Committee members, as stated in the charter. Currently at 13 including Neil Reardon who was already officially elected.

**a. Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the Board to elect the new and returning P+Z Committee members listed above, with the amendment that terms are 6 months and 1.5 years.**

15. In accordance with the by-laws, we will need to vote again at the next Board meeting to elect the P+Z Co-Chairs.

- b. Community Engagement – Tim presenting on behalf of Scott who is not present.
  - 1. Annual Board Meeting planning meeting is on July 10th at 6pm at Corner Coffee. Will discuss venue, format, and other big-picture logistics.
  - 2. Scott and Daniel are organizing National Night Out – August 6th. One blip is that there is a Twins game on the same night this year. Ideas:
    - 1. Partner with the Twins and engage the outside community.
    - 2. Run separate NNO events scattered throughout the neighborhood.
    - 3. Support the community by offering dollars to help them run their own events.
  - 3. First idea is most appealing. Could capitalize on the larger audience and broaden community engagement by setting up a voter registration booth, showing videos, etc.
  - 4. The next neighborhood clean-up is on Saturday at 10am at Whole Foods.
- c. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
  - 1. Bri has been having conversations with neighbors about how they like to be communicated with. Many neighbors had questions about what happens to their email addresses when they sign up for our communications – some reported not having been communicated with in 3 months. Not everyone is clear about what NLNA does.
    - 1. NLNA needs to find someone who can pull together a more frequent newsletter for the Board – perhaps monthly. Or, find ways to support Scott with his existing newsletter responsibilities.
  - 2. Voter registration
    - 1. Bri wants to get space at the Farmers Market for a booth.
    - 2. Partner with First Residential and other property owners to get voter information out to new residents as they move in.
  - 3. Education – Idea for “Politics and Beer” event where residents can be educated on things like caucuses, rank-choice voting, political contribution refund program, etc. Non-partisan topics.
  - 4. Culture/Public Prominence
    - 1. Add voting and educational information to the website.
    - 2. Bri has a vision to get a phone booth for the neighborhood where residents can call their representatives with the push of a button.
    - 3. Bri also proposes that we get NLNA T-shirts for volunteer days and other community engagement events so folks know who we are.
- d. Website and Social Media – Diane Merrifield and Mike Binkley

1. NLNA is getting 15-20 new subscribers on the website every month. Mike's videos have drastically increased website engagement. Almost 10,000 visitors to the site in May.
  - e. Small Businesses – Dana Swindler
    1. Had a roundtable discussion last night with 28 local businessowners about property crimes in the neighborhood – shoplifting is a serious issue, particularly gang-related. Councilmember Fletcher and MPD were also present at the meeting. City and Police are limited in their ability to be helpful/effective in preventing theft.
      1. Businessowners brainstormed other ways to mitigate theft – security resource-sharing, increasing the level of security that currently sits in the lobbies (upgrade from Level 1 to Level 2 security guards) etc...
      2. Conversations will continue, and Dana will periodically convene businessowners for roundtable discussions.
  - f. Parks and Beautification – Mark Huting
    1. Finished the first tree-watering last week – watered 38 new trees.
    2. We've received 5 large concrete planters from the City. Mark obtained an encroachment permit and is placing them throughout the neighborhood.
      1. Mark will contact Public Works to see if there are any other planters, benches, décor, etc that they want to get rid of and donate to NLNA.
    3. Welcome Park on corner of 394 and Washington Ave
      1. Currently fundraising for the "Welcome to the North Loop" LED monument to be placed at the entrance.
      2. Mark wants to plant four large perennial beds. MNDot will help us design those and pay for materials (~\$6k), but NLNA will have to pay for excavation (\$2k).
      3. Almost \$2k has been collected for maintenance of the park.
    4. North Loop City Park located behind 730 Lofts
      1. 25,000 sq ft. Want to make this a people-oriented park - workstations, meeting tables, etc. Installing some sort of water feature, public art, and other fun aspects. Similar feel to The Commons. Enclosed from the public by trees.
      2. NLNA has committed \$13k to the project. Additional fundraising is happening with other business leaders in the area. Total fundraising need between the City Park and the Pedestrian Greenway is roughly \$3M.
    5. Mark is working on getting an encroachment permit for a community garden. Hoping to start planting in about a week.
  - g. Historic Preservation and Public Art – Mark Huting
    1. Mike will be creating a video about historic preservation in the neighborhood.
    2. Francesco received more pushback from Tower Lofts on the tunnel public art project – they to approve verbiage for the map.
9. Unfinished business
    - a. No unfinished business.
  10. New Business

- a. Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission – The City and the NLNA (along with other neighborhood associations) appoint members to this Commission. The Commission helps guide neighborhood associations and sets policy. Election date is July 17 from 6-8pm in Mill District. NLNA needs to elect an Elector and an Alternate.

1. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Mark, and unanimously approved by the Board to elect Bri Sharkey-Smith as Elector and Mark Huting as Alternate.**

- b. Discussion about whether Board should appoint a new member to fill the empty slot left by Jackie Peacha. David Crary ran for the Board at the Annual Meeting and has remained engaged with the Board.

1. **Motion is made by Mark, seconded by Irina, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint David Crary to an 18-month term on the NLNA Board expiring in 2021, pending his acceptance of the appointment.**

11. The next board meeting will be held on July 31, 2019.

**Adjourned at 9:15 P.M.**