



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes  
September 25, 2019  
7:00 P.M.**

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

7 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Dana Swindler, Mike Binkley, Francesco Parisi, Scott Woller, and Bri Sharkey-Smith.

Neighbors in attendance: Representatives from Rock Island, FirstService Residential, and TractorWorks.

1. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Diane Merrifield.
2. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Mike, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the August Meeting minutes with minor changes:**
  - a. Neighbors in attendance, edit: Bruce Lambrecht, NL property owner (Union Plaza, Public Storage and recently 418 N 3<sup>rd</sup>)
  - b. Website and Social Media, edit: 25%\* of website visits are directed from Facebook.
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Concern about pedestrian safety in the winter on N 3rd St. Neighbors don't shovel their sidewalks.
    1. There should be some improvement after construction with the widened sidewalks and grass boulevards. Continue to call 311.
5. Councilmember Engagement – Councilmember Fletcher not present.
6. Finance Report – Irina Brown
  - a. Irina not present, no finance report.
  - b. Tim and Francesco will follow up on website sponsorships.
  - c. Scott will propose online payment methods for us to use, instead of handling cash and checks from sponsors/donors. Bri suggests we compile all of our

sponsor updates into one, shared google document.

7. Secretary's Report

- a. Nothing to report.

8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports

- a. Planning + Zoning – Irina Brown

1. No P+Z Committee meeting this month.

- b. Community Engagement – Scott Woller

1. City of Minneapolis' Litter Be Gone event – Saturday, October 12. Fall version of Earth Day Clean-up. Some people meeting at the North Loop playground, others meeting at Whole Foods.
2. Monthly neighborhood clean-up is this Saturday, September 28. Federal Reserve staff and volunteers will join this clean-up.
3. Coordinating with Shelby at Nordic building for the North Loop Roasted Party - Saturday, October 12. Free neighborhood party with “roastable” food, fall drinks like hot chocolate and cider, pumpkin art (markers, no carving), and music.

1. Will look into renting a large roaster, about \$75. Pumpkins will cost \$100, and food will cost about \$50. Total cost of the party will be roughly \$300-400.

2. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to use NLNA funds to support the North Loop Roasted Party.**

3. Potentially look into getting a TV there in case the Twins make the playoffs and have a conflicting game.

4. Should start thinking about Annual Meeting swag items. Scott will send an email to set up another Board Annual Meeting planning meeting.

- c. Parks and Beautification – David Crary

1. Monument at Welcome Park is stalled. MnDOT approved original landscape design, but they want another special use permit for the monument. Need to go through the City to obtain the permit. City Council meeting is October 10, where they will hopefully approve our permit request and then kick it back to the state for more paperwork. Construction timeline will be determined by the timing of this permit process.

1. Monument fundraising is mostly complete. Short \$10-15k. Need to send donation thank-you receipts/letters. Donor party needs to be planned - will be hosted by Francesco.

2. Pedestrian walkway at TractorWorks will create a connection between Washington Ave and N 2nd St. Main hang-up is timing of fundraising. Waiting on City's contribution - \$250,000. Hoping to start fundraising mid-October.

3. N 3rd St Park – David met with park commissioner and Green Minneapolis. Legal work is done but fundraising cannot begin until all documents are signed off.

4. Park clean-up continues!

5. Francesco and Irina need to check in with each other about the tree-planting situation on 8th St (Bunkers side of the street). We fundraised and space was created for trees to be planted, but now that space has been poured over with concrete.

6. 120 new trees will be planted on N 2nd St. Need to discuss responsibility and maintenance of that greenery.
    1. Look into buying/installing thematic stretches of white lights on these new trees in the winter.
  - d. Website and Social Media – Diane Merrifield and Mike Binkley
    1. Met with website manager and cleaned up, reorganized site.
      1. Adding a “Historic North Loop” section to the site that includes Mike’s stories and videos.
      2. Donations/sponsorships section needs some planning. How should we structure? By tiers? Donation purpose? Etc.
      3. Outside news sources published on the website will be presented via links and a brief summary to avoid copyright infringement.
    2. Hit almost 13,000 visits last month. Visits start to drop off in September due to change in season. Facebook and Instagram followers continue to increase, Instagram more rapidly.
  - e. Livability and Safety – Dana Swindler
    1. Not many crimes/thefts to report. “Smash and grabs” have calmed down.
  - f. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. Bri is planning a weeknight happy hour event where Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon is confirmed to give remarks on election securities and field a Q&A session.
    2. We were approved for another Little Free Library that will be put up on N 1st St.
    3. Soliciting new Board member applications at voter registration booths, in the newsletter, and on the website. Candidates will be marketed similarly to neighbors so they can make an informed vote at the Annual Meeting.
      1. Eight new Board members will be appointed at the Annual Meeting.
  - g. Historic Preservation and Public Art – Francesco Parisi
    1. Tower Lofts Tunnel Art is officially in progress.
    2. Nordic Plaza sculpture is still in conversation from 5 months ago. United Properties desires a 15-20ft sculpture at back of plaza visible from Washington Ave N. They want \$10k from NLNA to commission it. North Loop Friends Livability Committee will match whatever contribution NLNA is willing to make.
      1. Francesco wil extend an invitation for United Properties to present at an NLNA meeting. Board is not in a position to determine contribution level yet.
9. Unfinished business
- a. No unfinished business.
10. New Business
- a. Mike proposes that we erect more North Loop banners and replaced the tattered ones (like the one outside of Freehouse). We have these in inventory, just need to put them up.
  - b. Need more trash cans throughout the neighborhood. City will provide the trash cans for free if we manage (empty) them on our own. Weekly trash pick-up costs roughly \$625/can/year.

- c. Mike will write a thank-you letter to Mayor Frey and Public Works on behalf of the Board for budgeting so much money and being very communicative about repairing North Loop roads.
  - d. November meeting is currently scheduled for the night before Thanksgiving. Need to reschedule to November 20 (one week prior) and coordinate with P+Z.
  - e. Ramp C has opened up 600 more parking spots that were previously reserved for construction.
  - f. Neighbor suggested the idea of a “North Loop gift card” that can be used across North Loop businesses. Or, a local ID card that can be used for residents to receive discounts at neighborhood businesses.
11. The next board meeting will be held on October 30, 2019.

**Adjourned at 8:15 P.M by Diane.**