



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes
November 20, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

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

6 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Tim Bildsoe, David Crary, Diane Merrifield, Mike Binkley, Francesco Parisi, and Scott Woller.

Neighbors in attendance: Representatives from 801 Washington, Itasca, Tower Lofts, TractorWorks, Renaissance on the River, and River Station.

1. November Board Meeting called to order at 7:07 P.M. by Tim.
2. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the October Meeting minutes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Ron Ridgeway – artist and curator at TractorWorks. Working on the Tower Lofts Tunnel art, here to present signage to be paired with the recently installed Art Crossing canvas.
 1. Sign will be 3ft x 8ft digital-color print on canvas depicting pedestrian trail from Tower Tunnel to the river. Sign includes photographs taken around the North Loop as visual markers along the trail.
 1. Trail is not completely along public streets. Need to obtain permission from property owners to mark private sections of the trail.
 2. Distinguish in legend whether the trail is paved or unpaved.
 3. “River Park” should be changed to “James I. Rice Park”.
 4. Add a line that says something similar to “River/park is only ten minutes away,” to make obvious the point of the map.
 5. Mark the trail in larger, differently colored dots to distinguish it from the streets.
 6. Incorporate the alternative trail along 8th Ave.

2. Board will compile all suggestions and send to Francesco to share with Ron.
5. Councilmember Engagement – Councilmember Fletcher not present.
 6. Finance Report
 - a. Little over \$60k in the bank, some of which is dedicated to the Welcome Park monument. Monument artist has been paid the first installment. We have a pending reimbursement request (~\$12-14k) with the City.
 7. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports
 - a. Website and Social Media – Diane Merrifield and Mike Binkley
 1. Volume of website visits has declined to ~10k which is anticipated with the change in seasons. Number of subscribers to the website continues to grow due to content created by Mike. There were 26 new subscribers in October.
 2. Social Media Brand Guidelines distributed – these were voted on and approved in 2018.
 1. Suggested edits:
 - a. Under Audience: Include “North Loop Businesses” and “People who visit the North Loop”.
 - b. Planning + Zoning – Francesco Parisi
 1. Three liquor license proposals approved:
 1. Freehouse Plaza Extension – expand the boundary of their liquor license with the expansion of their patio.
 2. Underground Music Cafe – change in ownership warrants a new liquor license under the name of the new owner. The business and security plans will not change under new ownership.
 3. Unleashed Hounds & Hops – a brand new indoor/outdoor dog park with food, beer, and wine.
 4. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide letters of support for the liquor licenses of Underground Music Cafe and Unleashed Hounds & Hops. A letter of support will also be provided for Freehouse, under the condition that they add two public garbage cans on that block to accommodate the disposable cups that will be used on their plaza.**
 2. Francesco was nominated as the new Co-Chair of P+Z, temporarily until the Annual Board Meeting.
 3. Update on Privileged nightclub by Elite Entertainment – the business is not moving forward.
 - c. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
 1. North Loop Lights (Small Business Saturday) is this weekend.
 2. Trick or Treat event was really successful – well attended by kids, parents, and dogs.
 3. Next community event is the Outdoor Holiday Movie (Elf) on Saturday, December 14.
 1. Edwards Kitchen wants to provide coupons for free coffee with purchase of dessert.

4. Annual Board Meeting is on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.
 1. Bri is getting drinks.
 2. Mike is in charge of video – capture events, monuments, outreach, etc.
 3. Scott is working on the swag item.
 - a. Idea: Flat-bottomed, quality bag that people can use for groceries, etc.
 4. Questions for prospective Board candidates: What is your connection to the North Loop? Why do you want to serve? What skills do you bring?
 - a. Clear emphasis placed on the time commitment of serving on the Board.
 5. Need to know if any businesses want a table at the event. For-profit charge is \$100, nonprofits can table for free.
 6. Who is in charge of giveaways? All Board members must go to their favorite retailers and ask for giveaway items.
 7. Tim will invite presenters – Mayor, Police Chief, and Councilmember Fletcher.
 5. Drafted 2020 North Loop Event Calendar is distributed.
 1. Annual Meeting – January 29
 2. Candy Grab – January 11
 3. Earth Day Cleanup – April 25
 4. Monthly Cleanup Parties (4th Saturday)
 - a. May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, and October 24.
 - b. Invite the Mayor, President of the Fed, and Fed employees to do a big cleanup event – perhaps the kickoff on May 23.
 5. Food Truck Fair – May 17
 6. National Night Out – August 4
 7. Trick or Treat – October 31
 8. Outdoor Holiday Movie – December 19
- d. Civic Engagement – Tim Bildsoe
1. Bri's Election Happy Hour event was successful. The Governor is confirmed to present at a similar event on January 14. Topic will be urban issues and the upcoming session.
 1. Potentially to be held at 6pm at ONE Fermentary & Taproom.
- e. Parks and Beautification – David Crary
1. Welcome Park monument to be installed by January 15.
 1. Throwing a party for the artist (Jim Brenner) on Thursday, January 23 from 6:30 - 9:30p at Francesco's residence.
 2. There are still a couple of empty landscaping pots near Dunn Bros.
 - a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board for NLNA to spend \$400 on hiring landscaping services for those pots.**
 3. 3rd St Park and connecting park will go to the City Board before January 1.

- a. Meeting with Green Minneapolis on Monday about fundraising.
 4. Create North Loop Cleanup t-shirts to entice people to volunteer.
 5. Scott and Mike will work on a monthly e-newsletter that will include Cleanup notifications and other volunteer opportunities, as well as sign-up information.
 - f. Livability and Safety
 1. NLNA letter has been drafted and sent to the City supporting the Mayor's preliminary budget for the addition of 14 police officers.
 1. Per policy, the City will not hire more than 14 police officers, but there are discussions circulating about hiring less than 14 officers that NLNA is trying to combat.
 2. Continuous concerns about pedestrian safety. Two pedestrian accidents occurred on 2nd St within the last month. The primary issue is a lack of stop signs.
8. Unfinished business
 - a. No unfinished business.
 9. New Business
 - a. North Loop Dog Park (3rd St & 8th Ave) – Councilmember Lisa Goodman informed Tim that either that dog park will close, or it will change management (currently run by a nonprofit called Dog Grounds) by January 1. The property is for sale by Schaffer Richardson, but it could be awhile before there is a buyer.
 1. Does NLNA want to step in and manage? Expenses are minimal, however, the park needs improvements that would cost ~\$2,500.
 2. Create a Dog Park Committee within NLNA for management.
 3. **Motion is made by Mike, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board for NLNA to take over management of the park.**
 - b. Area by the Farmers Market (5th St to I94 – Glenwood and Lyndale) will allow for 10-30 story buildings in the 2040 Plan. There is a movement to preserve the history and vibe of that "Roots District" during this change. More information to come after the Annual Board Meeting.
10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020.

Adjourned at 8:53 P.M by Tim.