



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

---

**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**April 29, 2020  
7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82570111653>  
Call-in #: 312-626-6799 (mtg ID: 978-181-1377)**

11 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Tim Bildsoe, Francesco Parisi, Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller, Jennifer Brewington, David Crary, Jackson Schwartz, Dana Swindler, Ron Sliwinski, Bri Sharkey-Smith, and Mike Binkley.

Neighbors in attendance: Mark Andrew and Kjersti Monson from Friends of the Lock & Dam, Cristy Blake from Tower Lofts, Dan Collison from NuLoop Partners, and Nancy Gardner from Renaissance on the River.

1. April Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Tim.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the January and February Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Friends of the Lock & Dam
    1. Re-branding and changing their name to Friends of the Falls.
    2. Public Engagement about the future of the Upper Lock is beginning.
      - a. Represents Phase III of the Water Works project led by Minneapolis Parks & Rec.
      - b. Aiming to bring vibrancy to the riverfront with canoeing and kayaking, amongst other recreational activities on and near the river. Discussing the creation of a recreational center.
      - c. Aiming to also build a visitor center at the site to tell the historical significance and authentic stories of indigenous people who inhabited the site 200 years ago.

- d. And overall looking to make St Anthony Falls a true environmental asset with natural restoration, trail connections, and wayfinding.
  - e. Preliminary Concept Design to be completed and presented in 2021.
  - f. New website [www.thefalls.org](http://www.thefalls.org) will launch June 1st.
- 5. Finance Report – David Crary
  - a. Total account balance is \$32,893.
- 6. Secretary’s Report
  - a. No secretary’s report.
- 7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
  - a. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
    - 1. NuLoop Partners is a group of neighbors and businesses coming together to develop the North Loop “Root District”.
    - 2. The general geographical framework of the Root District encompasses the area between Target Field and the Minneapolis Farmers Market.
    - 3. The Root District contains a lot of light industrial warehouse buildings. The purpose behind developing and transforming the Root District is to build a resilient place that assembles density of creativity, space and meaning.
      - a. Core values are climate, equity, and creativity.
      - b. Current actions being taken:
        - a. Wayfinding and pedestrian improvements
        - b. Programming: art, food, culture
        - c. Brand-building effort
        - d. Interactive District Overview
  - b. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Ron Sliwinski
    - 1. TMBR architects (Tushie Montgomery) presented preliminary, new plans for their development as a result of COVID-19 and shifting credit markets. The main changes are as follows:
      - a. Overall concept changing from for-sale condo units to market-rate apartment rental units. 5,000 square feet of retail space will remain on the first floor.
      - b. Downsizing from 10 stories to about 7 stories.
      - c. No timber on the interior as originally planned, but the exterior design and materials will largely remain the same.
      - d. Number of units will modify to accommodate a rental model.
    - 2. Tushie will present more detailed plans at the P+Z Committee meeting and NLNA Board meeting in May.
    - 3. Approval of Stil Heart Distillery’s Off-Sale Liquor License so they can sell one, 375ml bottle of liquor to each customer for takeout during this time of COVID.
      - a. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved the Board to write a letter of approval for Stil Heart Distillery’s Off-Sale Liquor License.**
    - 4. Ron Ridgeway made the requested changes to the Tower Tunnel wayfinding sign that shows the most scenic, walkable route from Washington Ave to the river. More colorful, readable, and visually appealing.

- a. However, part of the represented path actually cuts through private Itasca property. The path will be further modified to show a public route.
    - 5. NLNA offered to donate historic pavers found lying in the street to TractorWorks, but they declined. Need to find a new recipient of these pavers.
  - c. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler & Jennifer Brewington
    - 1. Nothing to report. Trying to find new projects and new ways to engage with businesses during pandemic restrictions.
      - a. Potential project is the creation and installation of sidewalk wayfinding signs leading to businesses, parks, the river, etc. in the North Loop.
  - d. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    - 1. Volunteer clean-ups have been well-attended and very productive.
      - a. Connect with Parks Do-It-Yourself cleanup program to gain more participation and coordinate clean-ups.
      - b. Create signage to communicate volunteer clean-up dates.
    - 2. Parks department will water newly planted trees in the North Loop.
      - a. Frequency of the watering needs to be clarified with Parks. NLNA Board members and volunteers will fill in any gaps in the watering schedule.
  - e. Community Engagement – Scott Woller, Diane Merrifield, Mike Binkley & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    - 1. North Loop Food Truck Fair rescheduled to September 20.
    - 2. Litter-Be-Gone-Day North Loop cleanup event is October 3rd.
    - 3. Other North Loop events will not be marketed until pandemic restrictions ease.
    - 4. Looking into a mobile voting software for next year’s Annual Board Meeting member elections.
    - 5. North Loop small businesses are organizing a virtual spring business crawl. NLNA to potentially contribute as a co-sponsor and provide video, marketing, etc.
    - 6. Mike is organizing a mass online contest to support local businesses. Rewards total \$200 in gift cards to local businesses.
      - a. **Motion is made by Mike, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to use \$200 of NLNA funds to buy the gift cards.**
  - f. NL Dog Park – Mike Binkley & Jennifer Brewington
    - 1. Setting up a date to dump new gravel.
  - g. Neighborhood Safety – Dana Swindler & Ron Sliwinski
    - 1. Thefts and break-ins have increased, as well as the number of homeless people setting up shelter in lobbies. Hopefully some of these crimes diminish once public life picks up a bit.
8. Unfinished business
- a. Welcome Sculpture Update – David Crary
    - 1. Sculptor is close to completion. He will be preparing the site this week and hopefully installing next week (May 4).
    - 2. Scott is designing a North Loop sculpture t-shirt. More info to come.
  - b. Neighborhoods 2020 Program Guidelines – Tim Bildsoe

1. Public comment period is moved to July 15. Will discuss more at the May NLNA Board Meeting.

9. New Business

- a. NLNA Grant Proposal – Jennifer Brewington & Tim Bildsoe

1. Jennifer submitted a grant on behalf of YouthLink to help them hire personnel to respond to the youth mental health crisis, especially as related to homelessness during this time of COVID-19. Awards will be made May 1st.

10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

**Adjourned at 9:09 P.M by Tim.**