



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**June 24, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88470048043?pwd=Q3Zza3BydGp2UkN2N3VQaFRtYWFlZ09>**

**Call-in #: 312-626-6799 (mtg ID: 884 7004 8043)**

**Password: 855735**

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

1. June Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Tim.
2. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Jenn, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the May Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. No neighborhood engagement.
5. Finance Report – David Crary
  - a. City will fund the remaining \$14k for the Welcome Monument.
  - b. We have about \$30,000 of unrestricted cash; roughly \$8,000 in liabilities.
6. Secretary's Report
  - a. Jackson Schwartz is stepping down from the Secretary position. The position description will be sent out to Board members for consideration.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
  - a. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
    1. Workgroups (Climate, Equity, and Creativity) have been in action. Large assembly meeting will be held tomorrow, open to the public.

2. Initiating a mural project with Juxtaposition Arts at four separate sites across the district. The project is an opportunity for community engagement, supports black youth and leadership, and activates the district by increasing pedestrian activity.
    - a. In the process of choosing the four sites.
    - b. Fundraising efforts are underway.
  3. Root District is forming a mission statement that will continue to be edited by the community through ongoing engagement.
- b. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Ron Sliwinski
1. P+Z Committee did not meet this month.
  2. Jeremiah from BKV group is presenting on the new Duffy Paper Building project.
    - a. Duffy Redevelopment 1.0 = 500 block of Washington.
      - a. Opportunities for public art exist at this site.
    - b. Duffy Redevelopment 2.0 = 300 Building (300 6th Ave N), Falk Building (608/618 3rd St N), and New Construction (246 7th Ave N).
    - c. Overall project will produce approximately 351 apartment rental units consisting of studio, 1-bdr, 2-bdr, and 3-bdr units. Unit mix is subject to change.
    - d. 328 parking spots, subject to change.
    - e. New Construction building will serve the neighborhood with large contiguous commercial space.
    - f. Overall project has 40,965 rentable square feet, including retail space and a co-working space.
    - g. Existing buildings are interconnected with a skyway.
    - h. Fun rooftop amenity space, with potential for a rooftop skating rink.
    - i. Exterior materials consist of brick and metal. Design elements will follow the guidelines of HPC.
    - j. Developers will present at the P+Z Committee meeting on July 22, and will seek a letter of approval at that point in time.
      - a. The Board encourages the developers to think about the historically preserved rail corridor, and how to activate that space for pedestrians instead of perpetuating its use as a service street.
- c. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler & Jenn Brewington
1. Creating a monthly video campaign (potentially called “Love Local”) that features a new business each month. The videos would interview store owners about their business and why they chose the North Loop, as well as get a glimpse into their stores.
- d. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
1. David Crary is the official park steward for James Rice Park. The Park Board is pleased with the amount of trees that have been cleared in the park. Meeting with the City about landscaping around the park playground.
  2. Also meeting with the City about TractorWorks 3rd Ave Park.
  3. Working with the Welcome Park monument artist to paint the concrete base brown, at the artist’s request, at a cost of \$200.

- a. Additionally, working to create a system for changing the monument colors based on relevant themes in society (Ex: Teal to show support for Ovarian Cancer).
  - 4. The grass along 3rd St, 7th St, and other newly constructed streets in the North Loop is already dead or in the process of dying. Crafting an email to the City to request that they pull out the dead grass and add in woodchips instead.
  - 5. From Cristy Blake: There are 36 reported spots of dead trees and tree stumps. The City will not let us dig up or plant trees until they inspect each spot for gas lines, etc. Trees will likely not be replaced until spring 2021.
- e. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
  - 1. “Service Saturdays: Choose Your Own (Civic) Adventure!” event on Saturday, July 11.
    - a. Volunteers can choose to get involved in river clean-ups, donation drives, voter registration, dog park refresh, trash pick-up, and/or a blood drive.
      - a. Recipients of the donation drives will be local organizations, to change each weekend.
    - b. These activities will take place at various times between 9am and 3pm.
    - c. Service Saturdays will occur monthly, potentially the second Saturday of every month.
    - d. Incorporate gift card giveaways for volunteers, to support local businesses and to show gratitude for volunteer service.
  - 2. Scott, Tim, and Mike are meeting with the Nordic to brainstorm about doing a participatory art project in the Nordic Plaza.
  - 3. North Loop Food Truck Fair is scheduled for September 20th. The event will be more spread out around the neighborhood to mitigate crowding during COVID-19.
    - a. In the process of creating opportunities for small business engagement during the fair, since residents will be walking around the neighborhood to access food trucks.
  - 4. Looking into phone voting for the 2021 Annual Board Meeting elections.
  - 5. The Little Free Library located in the Welcome Park was cut down and will be repaired/reinstalled elsewhere in the neighborhood.
- f. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Mike Binkley
  - 1. Preliminary estimates for modifications of the website have been provided. Diane and Mike will adhere to the \$10k website budget in order to decide which modifications will make.
    - a. Top priorities include the addition of a donation button to the website, an interactive map of businesses in the North Loop, and mobile user-friendly functionality.
  - 2. ~12,000 website visits in May. Compared to 10,000 visits in May 2019.
  - 3. Historic Preservation signs are now available for seven buildings in the North Loop. Mike is coordinating installation.
- g. NL Dog Park – Mike Binkley & Jennifer Brewington
  - 1. New gravel will be dumped in the dog park. Depending on the service quote of dumping/spreading the gravel, volunteers may have the opportunity to help spread out the new gravel with rakes at the July 11 Service Saturdays event.

2. In the future, "North Loop Dog Park" banners will be created to dress up the dog park.
  - h. Neighborhood Safety
    1. Pedestrian crosswalk has been added at 7th Ave and 2nd St.
8. Unfinished business
  - a. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to reallocate CPP Funds as outlined below:**
    1. Website Design \$10k
    2. Website Data \$5k
    3. Historical Building signage \$10k
    4. Trash Containers \$10k
      - a. Look into organics recycling.
    5. Beautification \$10k
    6. Dog Park \$5k
    7. Public Art \$10k
9. New Business
  - a. No new business.
10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

**Adjourned at 9:19 P.M by Tim.**