Meeting Minutes

NORTH LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING & ZONING MEETING

HERITAGE LANDING COMMUNITY ROOM, 415 NORTH 1ST STREET

JANUARY 21, 2015

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS—DJ HEINLE

- THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.
- TEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE PRESENT: SYDNEY ANDERSON, DAVE DECKER, ALICE EICHHOLZ, DJ HEINLE, DARWIN LOOKINGBILL, KELLY NELSON, NEAL REARDON, KAREN ROSAR, JO VOS, AND BRENT WEBB..
- THE COMMITTEE APPROVED MINUTES FROM ITS NOVEMBER 19 MEETING.

LOCK-UP SELF STORAGE—BRB DEVELOPMENT (PETER BECK)

- PETER BECK (BRB DEVELOPMENT) BRIEFED THE COMMITTEE ON CHANGES MADE AS A RESULT OF ITS MEETINGS WITH THE CITY'S COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. PROJECT PLANS NOW INCLUDE: (A) PROVIDING MORE ROOM FOR A SIDEWALK ALONG 7TH STREET AND OAK LAKE AVENUE, (B) ADDING A 5TH FLOOR (WITH NO ADDITION TO OVERALL FOOTAGE), WHICH WILL REQUIRE A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, (C) POSSIBLY ADDING 1,500 SQUARE FEET OF SPACE FOR A FUTURE COFFEE SHOP, AND (D) ADDING MORE WINDOWS ON THE CORNER OF THE BUILDING. THE PROJECT MAY NEED A VARIANCE REGARDING THE HEIGHT AND SIZE OF ITS SIGN FACING THE FREEWAY.
- THE PROJECT WILL GO BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH.

AZUL CLUB—LIQUOR LICENSE—WILL HERNANDEZ

- WILL HERNANDEZ BRIEFED THE COMMITTEE ON PLANS TO APPLY FOR A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR A NEW CLUB—AZUL—AT 400 3RD AVENUE NORTH (FORMERLY SOUNDBAR). THE CLUB WILL BE OPEN 9 PM TO 2 AM. THE OWNER PLANS TO HAVE SALSA DANCING WITH DJS PLAYING LATIN MUSIC.

Red Cow Restaurant---Luke Shimp

- SHIMP DISCUSSED THE RED COW—A NEW BAR/RESTAURANT OPENING AROUND FEBRUARY 10, 2015. THE RESTAURANT IS ABOUT 5,500 SQUARE FEET, SEATING ABOUT 150 PEOPLE (INCLUDING 35 BAR STOOLS). THERE WILL BE ABOUT 40-50 SEATS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE ONCE THE WEATHER IS AGREEABLE. THE RESTAURANT WILL OPERATE 11 AM TO 1 AM WEEKDAYS AND 9 AM TO 1 AM WEEKENDS. THERE WILL BE NO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.
- THE CITY HAS APPROVED CLASS C LICENSE; THE RESTAURANT IS CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH ITS FINAL INSPECTIONS.
- IN THE FUTURE, THE RESTAURANT MAY REQUEST A VARIANCE FOR GREENING THE OUTDOOR SPACE OR PROVIDING FOR MORE UNIQUE ELEMENTS.

W BROADWAY AND C LINE—METRO TRANSIT (CHARLES CARLSON)

- CARLSON BROUGHT THE COMMITTEE UP-TO-DATE ON MTC'S WEST BROADWAY TRANSIT STUDY. THE STUDY IS IDENTIFYING TRANSIT CHALLENGES AND EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ALONG WASHINGTON AND WEST BROADWAY AVENUES IN NORTH MINNEAPOLIS.
- CARLSON ALSO DISCUSSED METRO TRANSIT'S PLANS FOR A "C LINE" ALONG THE PENN AVENUE CORRIDOR. THE C LINE IS A FORM OF ARTERIAL BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT)—A PACKAGE OF TRANSIT ENHANCEMENTS TO REDUCE TRIP TIMES AND AN IMPROVED EXPERIENCE.

The C line will be similar to MTC's A Line, which will run along Snelling Avenue in St. Paul. the A Line is expected to be operational at the end of 2015.

Muse---Crave America (Keyvan Talebi)

- Talebi updated the committee on Muse operations, noting that there have been no community issues raised over the last 18 months.
- Muse wants the option to do more corporate events, although they will not be core to the business. To this end, Crave is applying for a liquor license.

Hennepin County Transportation Update—Bob Byers

- Byers reviewed possible changes along Washington Avenue, including restriping and pedestrian crossings. The county expects improvements to be made sometime this summer.

Neighborhood Comments

- Regarding the Paxon building at the corner of 1st Street north and 4th Avenue North, Alice eichholz raised concerns about the building's blue lighting, which is brighter than expected and out of character with the neighborhood. She also discussed the large utility boxes, noting that Paxon should consider some landscaping to help hide them. She also discussed the choice of trees along the project—evergreens versus larger trees..

Committee Business

- Alice eichholz and brent Webb updated the committee on school plans. A neighborhood
- Jo Vos provided an update on the master plan for the Central Riverfront, which the committee voted to approve. She also presented a motion from the Marcy holmes Neighborhood Association supporting neighborhood concerns about possible development along the riverfront. The committee voted to write a letter of support for Lock-Up Self Storage's planned development.
- The committee voted to write a letter confirming that it has no objections to Azul Nightclub plans.
- The committee voted to write a letter supporting Muse Event Center and its current operations (with one abstention).
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2015, at 6 pm. The committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.