



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes  
January 30, 2013  
7:00 PM – 8:55 PM  
Twins Stadium**

**Attendees:** Philip Ailiff, Dave Decker, Mike Faulk, Amy Floden, David Frank, DJ Heinle, Fritz Kroll, Karen Lee Rosar, JR Maddox Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller

**Absent:** N/A

I. January Board Meeting called to order just after 7:00 PM

II. January 30, 2013 Board Meeting Agenda Approved

III. November 28, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes Approved

IV. Special Guests

- Council Member Goodman: states 2012 was a year in transition regarding the redistricting efforts – Goodman will no longer represent the North Loop Neighborhood, but she enjoyed participating over the last 10 years; commends the NLNA Board for position of leadership and making a difference in the growing and changing neighborhood; recognizes a busy year related to residential development, continued success of Target Field, upcoming Target Center renovation, and transit efforts; Karen Lee Rosar thanks Council Member Goodman for her great work
- Mayor RT Rybak: praises the NLNA Board as a great group to be representing and thanks the Board for their engagement in the community; discusses what he'll focus on for the remaining 337 days of his term/excited about activities are underway: Target Center, Farmers Market, streetcar initiative, Washington Avenue improvements, housing development, potential for the neighborhood park and school, Nicollet Mall improvements, Viking Stadium; urges Board Meeting attendees to get ahold of him – believes Minnesota has great politicians, but even better citizens
- County Commissioner Linda Higgins: notes the impressive meeting attendance “on a bitterly cold night”; thanks citizens for being a part of the NL; states she is looking forward to working with the Mayor in his final days in office as well as working with County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin on the interchange efforts – she is learning lots and enjoying it

- Park Board Commissioner Anita Tabb: thanks citizens who watered the park trees on 4<sup>th</sup> Street during the drought last year- recognizes the hard work; Great River Greening feasibility study is underway – looking forward to future efforts; looking forward to making sure legislation related to the park dedication fee passes this year
- State Senator Bobby Joe Champion: thanks NLNA Board for working feverishly and in tandem with other neighborhood efforts; focusing on creating a budget that reflect the neighborhoods priorities including schools and transit; reminds meeting attendees to sign up for legislative updates and urges attendees to call, write, or reach out on Facebook or Twitter; focusing on transit issues (rail, bikes, etc.) to be globally competitive
- State Representative Ray Dehn: has been “on the job” for three weeks now; signed onto the bill in support of park dedication; looking forward to working with Bobby Joe Champion and Linda Higgins
- Safety/ Police Department/ DID Presentation: (Bryan Schafer/Safety) – discusses youth violence focus including proactive versus reactive efforts; recognizes the growing amount of residential focus in the business and entertainment district as a need for change and adaptability; views his position not only as part of the department, but part of the community; (Renee Allen/Police Department) – states that the most common crimes in the neighborhood are crimes of opportunity (bikes, car break-ins, iPhones); everyone in room can help with this by not creating the opportunities; community involvement is a main focus of the department this year – 1) wants to establish a resident contact in each residential building, 2) get neighbors signed up for crime alerts, 3) strengthen the relationships already established in the North Loop; (Shane Zahn/DID Presentation) - 4<sup>th</sup> year of DID in operation; “3 areas of focus include cleaner, safer, greener”; so far, have mitigated 80K tons of trash, 19K graffiti tags, 67K tons of recycled materials, and 345K gum spots on sidewalks; helped 6500 people find downtown amenities (bus stops, restaurants, etc.); fund the Downtown 100 Program which has helped with the 78% decrease in chronic crime offenders since 2011; planted 45K trees and plants; hung 528K twinkle lights during the holidays and 450 planters and hanging baskets at other times of the year; look for the bright yellow shirts; DID is a public and private collaboration
- Court Watch Presentation – Chris Dixon: opportunity for citizens to be part of the prosecution process- discussing chronic offenders as a community; introduces chronic offenders to programs related to housing, chemical dependency, etc. as an alternative to incarceration; urges meeting attendees to attend Court Watch
- Minnesota Twin Presentation – Kevin Smith: presents update on Stadium and related events; April 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:10 PM is the Home Opener – first time Twins open season with everyone else, expecting to be sold out (40,000 fans), will offer Breakfast on the Plaza starting at 6AM that morning; Kenny Chesney and Zac Brown Band to play on July 12; folks that work at stadium understand they’re working in an urban neighborhood, thinks they are doing a great job – “let us know how we can do better”; July 2014 Twins will host the All Star Game (international event) at the Stadium; Target Field is about baseball, but also wants to be a community asset and a good partner in the neighborhood
- Interchange Project Presentation – George Fantauzza: describes “a lot of work to be done by Spring 2014 opening” - requires City, State, and Federal assistance;

planning for 6000 people to exit stadium on north side of building – pedestrian link to go beneath tracks to increase safety; need to be able to get 10,000 people out in one hour; space planned for bands or an art fair, amphitheater seating, plaza heated by HERC; new lawn planned to be future neighborhood asset; video board for NL Movie Night and away games; Fantauzza thanks neighbors for their patience with street closings and noisy pile driving; shows proposal images and photos of progress; still working on lighting so lighting plan will be safe, pedestrian-friendly, and non-obtrusive; team is working as fast as they can

- Council Member Don Samuels: congratulates neighborhood in creasing property values though successful development; recognizes the NL as “ a safe place to call home” and “a family neighborhood”; states that public safety is number one; suggests that if bar owners are going to do business in the neighborhood, they are going to do it right

#### V. Board Elections

- Motion approved to do Board Elections prior to Finance Report rather than at the end of the Board Meeting
- David Frank summarizes the election process as described in NLNA bylaws; briefly describes the roles and responsibilities of the Board; states that nominees can either be residents or representatives from neighborhood business - with a min. of 60% of seats filled by residents; states 5 of the 11 seats to be filled this year
- Ballots are distributed; David Frank asks - three times – if anyone else wants to be added to the ballot; no one else is added to the ballot
- The following nominees make a one-minute presentation:
  - Marc Baumel (resident)
  - Becky Boland (resident)
  - Amy Floden (resident)
  - David Frank (resident)
  - DJ Heinle (business representative)
  - Matt Hilgart (resident)
  - Fritz Kroll (resident)
  - J.R. Maddox (resident)
  - Mike Thyren (resident)
- Janet and Susan from the League of Women’s Voters collect ballots to count

#### VI. Finance Report – Mike Faulk

- Mike Faulk reports the following expenses for the month of December 2012:

Accounting	\$200
Bank Charges	\$50
Postage/Mailing Services	\$1409.80
<u>Administrative</u>	<u>\$150</u>
TOTAL	\$1809.90

- \$66,822.54 “to the good” at the end of the year
- December 2012 Finance Report approved

#### VII. Neighborhood Park Update (Deborah Karasov with Great River Greening)

- The neighborhood-commissioned scoping study for a new park in the North Loop Neighborhood is complete; for more information, please visit:  
[http://www.greatrivergreening.org/Study\\_for\\_new\\_park\\_in\\_DT\\_Mpls\\_complete.pdf](http://www.greatrivergreening.org/Study_for_new_park_in_DT_Mpls_complete.pdf)
- The purpose of the scoping study is to move the conversation to the next step; a tool for what the park can be; a review of neighborhood identity and livability; an investigation of potential park locations; a look at the potential increase in property values and ecological benefits; a look at next steps
- NL is an important neighborhood due to plans for downtown Minneapolis and Minneapolis as a whole; residential population is expected to double – must have great amenities for this to happen.
- Congratulations to the community leaders and local politicians for all their contributions.
- Three Key Thoughts:
  - Big opportunities to build on what already exists
  - Public/Private partnership is different than the typical park development model
  - Reconnection: - NL to River through Bassett Creek  
- NL to rest of City (open space, streetscaping)  
- To each other; a place for people to gather

#### VIII. School Update (Becky Boland and Eric Laska)

- Once kids go to school, families tend to move out of the NL; efforts underway to mitigate this issue by planning for an elementary school downtown
- A Downtown Minneapolis Elementary School Initiative update is distributed ([attached to notes for reference](#))
- Next steps: a survey will be sent out in the next few weeks with the goal to learn more about school choice, child care, and generally what neighbors would be looking for in terms of school options; February 25 is an educational event for folks interested in the downtown elementary school in regards to initiative overall, current school choices, and to volunteer to be involved; In March the working group proposed to come together to harness the political power of the NL to create a joint mission statement, outline goals, etc.

#### IX. Committee Reports

##### A. State of the North Loop Neighborhood - David Frank

- “Excellent.”
- The Board is oversubscribed for potential Board Members – great sign; a reminder that even if you don’t win, get involved
- Lots of projects under construction or coming soon; please volunteer – the

##### B. Marketing and Promotions – Web Update – Scott Woller

- Sign up for website, social media, etc. – volunteer; get involved
- Upcoming events include Earth Day Clean-Up and a Candy Grab in the Spring
- Scott calls names of winners of the prizes donated by local businesses

- C. Marketing and Promotions – Business Association – Scott Woller
  - New resident welcome bag coming online soon; let Scott know if you want to get involved
- D. Planning & Zoning – DJ Heinle & Dave Decker
  - Roadwork plans for the City of Minneapolis – area in NL only affects Oak Lake and 10<sup>th</sup> from Hwy 55 to Washington Ave planned for late spring/early summer
  - 500 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – 4-5 floor condo building to include office space and a bar/restaurant on the first floor; preliminary presentation
  - Committee Reports include: Farmers Market 2.0 presentation at 2020 Partners meeting; SW LRT – comments have been posted on website for public viewing; 2020 Partners – transit efforts discussed including SWLRT, Green Line, and Interchange, also Target Center Design moving forward; Education Subcommittee – full committee now formed that will report to the Board
  - 3 residential buildings totaling 313 units opened in 2012; 5 projects are currently under construction totaling 863 new units; lots of new neighbors; Smack Shack to open mid-February
- E. Livability – Fritz Kroll
  - (Greening & Lighting): more trees to be ordered for North 1<sup>st</sup> Street in February; to be planted April/May
- F. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff
  - Phil reports 2012 was a busy year, 2013 will be also
  - Phil worked with Renee to identify crime and find solutions; aggravated assaults, burglary, and larceny were the big issues in 2012
  - 2013 goals include fostering relationships with the Police Department, homeless shelters, Catholic Charities, and other neighborhood partners
  - Phil requests neighbors sign up for the Block Club
  - Phil looks forward to working hard for the NL in 2013

## X. OLD BUSINESS

- A. NRP - JR Maddox
  - Revolving Loan up and running; monthly reports will continue to be shared with Board; the Board has the ability to alter the program if there is not enough activity
- B. Farmers Market – Karen Lee Rosar
  - Important for folks to make comments by December 31, 2012 regarding the EIS
- C. 2020 Partners Update – Karen Lee Rosar
  - See website for definition of organization
  - A letter of support was sent to the Target Center Improvement Committee suggesting that the Committee use 2020 Partners as a resource
- D. DNG update – Karen Lee Rosar
  - DNG is a group that represents all downtown neighborhoods organizations
  - Stadium discussion and school initiatives are the main focus right now

E. Target Center Improvement Committee – Karen Lee Rosar

- Industry studies that the Target Center is #51 in the top 200 venues in the world for ticket sales (non-basketball events); the goal is to maintain that spot on the list – renovations will help us do that

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Election Results – David Frank

- New/Renewed Board Members per 2013 Elections include David Frank, DJ Heinle, Fritz Kroll, JR Maddox, and Matt Hilgart

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.



**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Member Election  
January 30, 2013**

**Vote for Only Five (5) Candidates**

- ☐ Marc Baumel (resident)
- ☐ Becky Boland (resident)
- ☐ Amy Floden (resident)
- ☐ David Frank (resident)
- ☐ DJ Heinle (business representative)
- ☐ Matt Hilgart (resident)
- ☐ Fritz Kroll (resident)
- ☐ J.R. Maddox (resident)
- ☐ Mike Thyren (resident)
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐



## North Loop Neighborhood: Park Scoping Study



Artist Concept Sketch of North Loop Park (Pong Khov, 2013)





## North Loop Neighborhood: Park Scoping Study

The North Loop is the fastest growing neighborhood in Minneapolis. The neighborhood is also central to the Downtown 2025 Plan's goal to expand the residential population to 70,000 as a catalyst for driving Downtown's next wave of business vitality, social improvement and cultural renewal. However, current residents may not stay, nor will certain groups of others purchase or rent, without better access to open space. Residents, officials, and various downtown-planning entities all recognize park space as a need, highlighted as well in the recently completed *North Loop Small Area Plan*.

With support of the Minnesota Twins, the North Loop Neighborhood Association retained a team led by the nonprofit Great River Greening to help move the conversation forward about a new park through a scoping study. Great River Greening, Wenck Associates, Hoisington Kogler Group Inc. (HKGI), and Donjek represent a combined skill set in ecology, urban design, engineering and public financing. The project includes a preliminary analysis of: 1) site location alternatives, 2) park concept, including a specific emphasis on functional or interpretive ties to Bassett Creek, 3) range of costs, 4) potential partners and funding sources, and 5) issues moving forward. **Excerpts from the study are below:**

### Benefits of a North Loop Park

1. **Economic and Downtown Growth:** Research has established that property values can be significantly improved by proximity to a park. Some research shows that proximity to neighborhood parks associated with a 7 - 13% increase in home value. An investment in a new North Loop park will unlock property value that won't be available otherwise. Additionally, a North Loop park will play an especially important role in the City's efforts to enhance downtown's livability and distinctive urban quality of life.
2. **Neighborhood Identity and Livability:** Parks help build an identity through features and functions that celebrate the history and life of the community, in addition to providing recreation opportunities. The North Loop still exhibits a character devoid of green amenities and pedestrian oriented experience, and research has shown downtown residents want parks close at hand, among other amenities.
3. **Environmental:** a North Loop park has larger urban and ecologist benefits, including stormwater management, urban pollution and urban stress relief. In particular, Downtown currently has few opportunities for water resource practices that will benefit the water quality of the Mississippi River.

### Opportunities

1. Opportunities do exist in one or more of the surface parking lots in the study area. The neighborhood has identified several criteria as most important in finding a site: potential to enhance the pedestrian connections, public feel of the site, potential to enhance land use linkages, and property value impact. Using these and other criteria, at least one site, Site A, does rank higher and merits closer study. Site D is the second highest rank.
2. A North Loop park at the right location, such as Site A in the study, has the potential to reinforce several goals already laid out in existing land use plans.
3. The neighborhood and stakeholders have identified several elements for the concept of the park, and all can be addressed within the 1.3-2 acre sites examined. Top-ranking functions for the park are neighborhood identity, ecological services, and neighborhood recreational opportunities.
4. With the right partners and environmental perspective, the North Loop park can be pursued with a new sense of multiple benefits and a broadened scope of sustainability.
5. A North Loop neighborhood park will complement, not be redundant with, open space efforts nearby. Programming for the Downtown Park and greening efforts, the Interchange, and the RiverFirst efforts are at a regional and state scale and will likely be more highly programmed for large numbers of visitors.
6. The North Loop neighborhood, with its residential and commercial mix, its adjacency to downtown and Target Field with all the business interest that engenders, and its own fast pace of redevelopment, has the potential to be a case study for new kinds of park development models.

### Next Steps

1. Present to Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board the results of the scoping study (winter-spring 2013)
2. Create a steering committee of key stakeholders to move forward (spring summer 2013)
3. Complete a feasibility study to explore the technical and economic viability of the preferred site or sites (fall 2013 begin)
4. Develop a community engagement plan as a step towards nurturing an informed community for park planning (fall 2013 begin)
5. Work collaboratively with adjacent neighborhoods, downtown committees and others in order to advance a framework and hierarchy of open spaces and linkages (ongoing)

# **Downtown Minneapolis Elementary School Initiative**

January 29, 2013 Update

## **Introduction**

As a result of downtown Minneapolis continuing to grow and flourish while attracting individuals with children who wish to live in its neighborhoods, the North Loop and Downtown Neighborhood Associations came together in the fall of 2012 to pass resolutions in support of the creation of an elementary school located in downtown Minneapolis. Since those resolutions of neighborhood support, the North Loop and Downtown Neighborhood Associations have also come together to form a joint working committee of individuals to work toward the goal of establishing such a school.

Between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, the number of children under the age of five living in downtown Minneapolis has grown more than three-fold to 914. In addition to those 914 children under the age of five, there are 444 school-aged children between the ages of five and nine living in those same downtown neighborhoods. This totals more than 1,300 children between birth to the age of nine living in downtown Minneapolis as of the 2010 census.

Because of the desire of the downtown community to be a sustainable community and also to be able to both attract and keep its residents, it is of vital importance that there is a viable and quality school to serve that sustainable community. It is also the goal of the entire downtown community as set forth in the Minneapolis Downtown Council's Downtown 2025 Initiative to double the downtown population to 70,000 people by 2025. In order for this to be a reality, a viable educational option is a cornerstone of that goal.

## **Next Steps**

In February of 2013, the working committee will release a survey to more thoroughly understand the school needs and options of children in the downtown area. Additionally, on the evening of February 25 we will hold an event to educate parents and others interested in a downtown elementary school in regards to the initiative overall, current school choices, and to volunteer to be involved in the effort.

In March of 2013, the working group proposes to convene a larger partnership made up of government entities, neighborhood and business associations, private sector partners, the faith community, parent representatives and other partners to come together around a mutual mission statement, goals, and tactics in order to make this school a reality.

## **For More Information**

For additional information or to get involved, please contact one of the working committee co-chairs:

Becky Boland - beckyboland@comcast.net or at 612.281.1595

Eric Laska - elska@gmail.com or at 612.770.6982

Additionally, please send us an email if you would like to be added to our electronic update email list.