

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**February 24, 2016**

**7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Heritage Landing, 415 1st Street North**

**Attendees**: Philip Ailiff, Tim Bildsoe, Katie Day, David Frank, DJ Heinle, Bryan Hollaway,

JR Maddox, Diane Merrifield, Francesco Parisi, Scott Woller

**Absent:** Fritz Kroll

1. February Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM; in addition to stating names and building of residence or business of employment in the neighborhood, Board Members shared a “fun fact” as a way for old and new Board Members to learn a bit about each other
2. **A motion is made (Bryan), seconded (DJ), and approved by the Board to approve the February Board Meeting Agenda.**
3. **A motion is made (Tim), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to approve the January 27, 2016 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting Minutes.**
4. Finance Report
* No Finance Report was made this month.
* The Board is looking for a new Treasurer if anyone is interested; this will be discussed further later in the meeting.
1. Neighbor Comments
* Maria Lee with 1 Mississippi: Maria is a student at the University of Minnesota and attends the meeting to introduce the only national campaign supporting the Mississippi River, 1 Mississippi; Maria begins by asking the Board why they moved to the North Loop- many agreed they enjoy the trails and green space along the River; Maria explains 1 Mississippi is supported by 50+ organizations all over the US including some well-known local organizations; they organization would like to have “a united voice all over, but local initiatives are great, too!”; a couple of handouts are distributed including one that lists ways to create a healthier river; Phil asks if there has been any more conversations related to restoring the falls to their natural flows- Maria answers ‘yes,’ but adds no decision has been made yet; Maria suggests Phil (and anyone else) get linked into the conversation at the next Great Mississippi Forum coming up on Thursday; Governor Dayton will be speaking at the Forum; if there is anything else the Board would like to know about the organization or the Mississippi River, please let Maria know
1. Committee Reports
2. Marketing and Promotions – Scott Woller
* 7th Annual North Loop Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday, April 23: this event started small, but more and more HOA’s and businesses are doing their part; currently looking for businesses to be “distribution centers” for the clean up supplies provided by the City- Scott to send an email with the subject “Earth Day” to be forwarded to potentially interested businesses; looking for feedback on what to do with the trash- City pick up? HERC contacts to learn about potential opportunities?; the goal is for individuals and groups to clean up their parking lots, green space, etc.; Scott will send event information jpg and images to Diane
* 5th Annual North Loop Candy Grab on Saturday, March 26: last year approximately 250 people came including 145 kids; last year the North Loop contributed $500 to the event- Scott is requesting $700 this year as the event has grown; Scott distributes posters and information cards; if anyone wants to help stuff eggs, a group will be getting together on Saturday, March 19 at noon in the lobby outside of Corner Coffee; **a motion is made (Scott), seconded (Bryan), and approved by the Board to contribute $700 to the 5th Annual North Loop Candy Grab**
1. North Loop Businesses – Scott Woller
* T-shirt sales at the Annual Meeting went well; Scott has a Square deposit to be made
* Scott has made a goal of “less talk and more action” this year for the North Loop Businesses
1. Website Update – Diane Merrifield
* Diane sent report to the Board on February 23 for review; reports that volume is about the same as last year, expecting more activity in the spring again; there is a trend away from desk top computers and tablets and towards more mobile visits
* The new site was launched on December 31, 2015; its going well
* A large number of inquiries continues; the most visited parts of the site are the Directory and “In the News”; there are a lot of visits from Facebook; Diane asks if there are any questions or comments
* David asks if a link to the Board Meeting and Planning + Zoning agendas could be created on the Home Page; Diane will do
* Katie would like to provide park updates and asks where they should go; Diane suggests highlighting when updates are available; Katie to send content and images to Diane
1. Planning + Zoning – DJ Heinle and Dave Decker
* Project for Pride in Living & Youthlink, 41 North 12th Street: The team proposes to add 47 beds in a new housing component and renovate the existing facility; **a motion is made (DJ), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to support the team’s request to rezone to B4C, vacate the 12th Street right-of-way, and replat the site;** the project’s goal is getting homeless Minneapolis youth (ages 18-24 years) off the streets and into “permanent” housing,” focusing on learning, earning, and turning lives around; the housing component being developed by Project for Pride in Living is 90% funded; a $5-6 million campaign to raise private funding for the renovation work and addition to Youthlink’s existing facility is underway; Karen Rosar, a member of the North Loop’s Planning + Zoning Committee, has recommended offering some sort of financial support to the project; **a motion is made (DJ), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to support the project; a motion is made (DJ), seconded (Bryan), and approved by the Board to contribute $1000 to the Youthlink project;** additional funding will be discussed at the Board’s Annual Retreat
* Living Greens Farms, 620 Olson Memorial Highway: An indoor farm using vertical farming and aeroponics technology is in the works for an existing building located at 620 Olson Memorial Highway; the facility will provide an equivalent to 150 acres of farmland; a similar (but smaller) facility already exists in Faribault if anyone on the Board is interested in touring.
* Weather Rite Site, 616 5th Street**:** the site is currently owned by Schafer Richardson; Schafer Richardson is moving ahead with plans for office space and are currently shopping for a large office tenant; once a tenant is found, the team will be back to present more details; they are preliminarily planning on an 11 story structure with 1 story of parking underground
* Art for Electrical Boxes update:Planning + Zoning Committee Member, Wendy Holmes, has withdrawn from the Committee; the Committee is now looking for a new champion for the Art for Electrical Boxes project; Francesco volunteers; DJ will send Francesco notes regarding the City process, etc.
* Pedestrian and Bicycle Update:no update this month
* Other:
* Francesco states that he is concerned about the Planning + Zoning Committee and Board’s procedures regarding feedback on new developments; David suggests the City looks to the Committee and Board for their insight and opinion only; JR comments that the Committee and Board have no actual authority for approval
* Phil requests that, moving forward, the Planning + Zoning Committee take a closer look at any new development’s plans for accessibility, sharing that only half of the building of the new Invision location in the North Loop is accessible
1. Livability – Greening & Lighting Update – Fritz Kroll
* No update this month.
1. Livability – NL Park Update – Katie Day
* Katie states that there is no update since the Annual Meeting, but provides an overview for those who missed it: the site the team is looking at is the parking lot located just north of 730 Lofts and will be ¾ to 1 acre in area; Schafer Richardson owns the property, and Kit Richardson has been working with the North Loop Park Committee to develop a plan; architects have been partnering with both the City and Schafer Richardson- both parties agreed on programming and draft concepts at the end of 2015; the Committee is now going for approval so funding can be approved and the North Loop Park can hopefully become part of the master plan; if it is approved, funds can start to be allocated; the North Loop Park Committee continues to think about adjacent land use and to talk to local stakeholders; Greco representatives are to meet with Katie and Karen Rosar on Monday to discuss potential funding opportunities; Kit is working to help Committee understand how neighboring buildings will be developed
* Scott asks if other downtown parks are being proposed- Katie responds that no other downtown parks are being proposed, but existing parks are looking for improvements
* Bryan asks if the Committee is currently looking for public support, as it is important to be able to paint a clear vision for stakeholders, investors, and the community- Katie suggests they take opportunities as they arise; Bryan asks about funding campaign timing- Katie states they need to get the Park Board on board first
* Tim asks if any elected officials are behind the project; it is understood that Council Member Jacob Frey is in support of the park, and the Park Board generally supports it, too
* Phil asks about a time frame for Park Board approval and funding; Katie states that is depends on where the Park Board lands
* David suggests that the goal for this year is to define what year the park will become a reality; Katie believes it will depend on Kit’s schedule for developing adjacent properties
1. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff
* The first Block Club meeting of the year will be Thursday, February 25 at 4:30 PM at Dunn Bros on Washington. The focus of the meeting will be on Part 1 (homicide and rape) and Part 2 (livability issues like public intoxication and urination) crime statistics. Phil is looking forward to reviewing these statistics.
* The next Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting is planned for Wednesday, March 2 from 4-6 PM in Room 333 of City Hall. The focus for this meeting will be Urban Forest Policy. The team is looking to make some recommendations.
* The next First Precinct Court Watch is scheduled for Friday, March 11 at 10AM in the Doty Conference Room at the Main Library on the second floor. This is a program that monitors chronic offenders ran by Heidi Johnston. The program has been recognized as a “Best Practice Program,” and occurs the second Friday of each month.
1. Sustainability/Community Garden – Bryan Hollaway
* Bryan shares that he was approached by the property manager of the 5th Avenue and 4th Street site regarding a potential community garden; the land is currently for sale for $1M
* Bryan is requesting $500 for a gardening campaign called the Beautify Your Balcony project; Scott from Tangletown Gardens is offering a 10% discount (up to $20) for residents wanting to participate; the $500 would be used to reimburse Tangletown Gardens for the discount; the Board asks if Tangletown would be willing to split the discount since it will still bring them business and visibility, but Bryan explains he has already asked and they are not willing to do that; the Board suggests talking to other gardening businesses who might be willing to offer better incentives- the North Loop is a non-profit, so it could be considered a donation; **a motion is made (Bryan), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to contribute $500 to the Beautify Your Balcony project whether it is with Tangletown Gardens or another business willing to offer/split better incentives**
1. OLD BUSINESS
2. Revolving Loan Fund Update – JR Maddox
* JR reports that the 2015 Annual Report is due soon; a new format will be available in the near future- JR plans to draft the report for Board review and approval in March
* Rules have changed recently that protect the funds for the neighborhood; the revolving loan went away, so the funds are safe, but need to be repurposed; JR will be suggesting a “menu of options” that he would like to discuss at the retreat
* Most of the NRP funds need to go towards housing “which is a little difficult to make work in our unique neighborhood”; this is something the Board needs to further discuss; JR. has some ideas
* CPP funds can be used for neighborhood administration
* More to come at March meeting and Board retreat
1. Farmers Market Advisory Group Update – (who will report on this moving forward?)
* No meeting this month.
1. 2020 Partners Update – David Frank
* 2020 Partners have not yet met in 2016
1. DNG Update – DJ Heinle
* Met on Monday
* Discussed changes related to NRP and CPP programs
* Status reports are due- the North Loop’s is due in 2017 so “we have some time”
* Offering “Effective Meeting Training” next Monday for those who are interested
* Currently looking for directors and officers insurance for the entire City, but rates are high; David shares that the North Loop Neighborhood Association Board had a private insurance policy (including directors and officers insurance) a few years ago, then decided to go through the City because the group policy was better- the Board has since realized it is difficult and less efficient to go this route; DJ states there is some confusion in the neighborhoods, so things are getting tweaked, but there will not be any big changes or negative effects
* DJ lets the Board know the Central Library has space to store neighborhood records if necessary; the Board determines this is not necessary
1. NEW BUSINESS
* By-laws: DJ and Bryan will circulate the new draft before the March Board meeting; the draft will be posted on the website for 45 days (this is the required public notice written into the by-laws); the Board will be asked to approve the draft at the following Board meeting
* Board officer election and committee chair selection:
* David reminds the Board that the February Board meeting is when Board officer elections and committee chair selections take place; all committee chairs are to be decided- if a committee has 2 chairs, one must be a Board Member; the Board needs to determine a new treasurer, secretary, vice president, and president
* The Planning + Zoning Committee is to recommend a committee roster that the Board will approve at the March Board Meeting
* David asks for interest in the following positions (the interested person is listed for each position):
* Marketing & Promotions Scott
* North Loop Businesses Scott
* Website Diane
* P+Z DJ & Francesco
* Livability Fritz
* Sustainability Bryan
* Park Katie & Bryan
* Safety & Livability Phil
* Funding (NRP, CPP) JR
* Board Treasurer Tim
* Secretary DJ
* Vice President Diane
* President David
* Other:
* The Downtown Open Streets date has been set for August 7.
* Board Members have the ability to add content to the website; guidelines have been created and will be shared.
* Board Members are invited to the Be the Match breakfast at 7:15 AM on March 3; the breakfast will provide an organizational update
* Board Members are asked to bring their calendars to the March Board meeting so a date for the retreat can be determined; the retreat is an opportunity to create a list of priorities and discuss items that take longer that what is allowed at normal Board meetings
* Welcome all new Board Members!!

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.