

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**April 27, 2016**

**7:00 PM – 8:00PM**

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

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

**Absent:** JR Maddox, Francesco Parisi, Scott Woller

1. April Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM; those in attendance introduced themselves by stating names and building of residence or business of employment in the neighborhood.
2. **A motion is made (DJ), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to approve the March Board Meeting Agenda.**
3. **A motion is made (Diane), seconded (Katie), and approved by the Board to approve the March 30, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.**
4. COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENTATION
* Councilmember Jacob Frey was unable to make it to this meeting.
1. NEIGHBOR COMMENTS
* In The Loop Coffee Co.: A new neighborhood business owner introduced herself and her new coffee shop. It is located in the Itasca building in the space previously occupied by 208 Deli. Because they are restricted from placing signs on the outside of the building, she is reaching out to individuals and groups to say they are excited to get involved in the neighborhood. She passed out fliers announcing the opening of the coffee shop.
* Follow up on discussion forum at the Planning+Zoning Committee meeting held on April 20: A resident asked the Board a few questions. 1) When the Planning+Zoning Committee approves development projects, does it take impact on existing residents and local businesses into account? David responded that both are taken into account. More density is good for business. More investment is good for achieving other neighborhood goals, including increased improvements from the City. 2) Do the Board members have to be residents or employed by businesses located in the North Loop? DJ responded that the bylaws state that Board members must be residents or work in the North Loop, which makes all the Board members eligible.
* Metro Dogs: A neighborhood business owner attended the meeting to learn more about the current neighborhood happenings.
* Crosswalks and pedestrian safety: A resident wanted to ask if Councilmember Frey is the correct person to contact regarding crosswalks and pedestrian safety. David responded that he is, and the best way to communicate concerns is to reach out to others in the building. If other residents agree to concerns, all can reach out together and use the same language.
1. FINANCE REPORT –Tim Bildsoe
* Prior to this meeting, Tim sent out the complete financials and March balances of NLNA checking and saving accounts at Sunrise Bank. The balance summary is:
	+ Basic Business Checking – 4/26 Balance: $15,010.87
	+ Business Money Market – 4/26 Balance: $8,052.70
* Next Board meeting he will use a new format for the general overview.
* Tim spoke to a bookkeeper about putting together a new budget. When it is completed, he will distribute a copy to the Board for discussion.
* Tim reached out to Robert Thompson at the City to see if he can help with the audit. Robert introduced Tim to Mike Wilson, an accountant. Both Robert and Mike are scheduled to attend the June Board meeting to talk about tax reporting, best practices, how to prepare for an audit, and the free services that they can offer through the City.
* Tim received an email from Twin Cities Insurance regarding Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance coverage. In the past, the NLNA has purchased its own private insurance. There is an option to partner with other neighborhood associations to receive insurance through the City. However, the price is the same, and it is more of a hassle. Tim will confirm new information he received, that there may be an option in which the City pays for the insurance. He shared that the plan is a well-structured three-year policy that could benefit the organization.
1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
2. Marketing and Promotions – Scott Woller not at the meeting
* Posters: David asked if anyone had comments about the posters that Scott sent around regarding the Earth Day Clean Up and a North Loop Bike Tour. No comments.
* Proposed movie night at Target Field Station: It would cost approximately $600 to sponsor a movie, which includes buying the rights to show the movie, security, and staff to operate the movie. Fritz commented that it seems expensive, but he supports it. Katie shared that she likes that it raises awareness for using that space. The neighbor representing Metro Dogs stated that her company is willing to sponsor if it can also be an opportunity to fundraise. David thanked her, and said it might not work for this type of event because admission cannot be charged, but the Board appreciates the offer. Before choosing a date, the Board would confirm that it does not conflict with a City movie night. **A motion is made (David), seconded (Bryan), and approved by the Board for $600 to fund a movie night.**
* North Loop Bike Tour: David shared that the neighborhood did a bike tour eight or so years ago, and it was successful. Bryan suggested reaching out to the Minneapolis bicycle coalition as well.
1. North Loop Businesses – Scott Woller not at meeting
* Fritz shared that the annual Warehouse Business Association meeting will be May 10 at 2pm at Fulton Brewery.
1. Website – Diane Merrifield
* Diane reported that the website volume is 3,600. Much of the traffic comes through referrals from other sites. For example, the Schafer Richardson article link brought in over 400 visits. Facebook also drives traffic. There are an increasing number of inquiries that come in through the website every month. When possible, Diane tries to delegate inquires to the appropriate Board members.
1. Planning + Zoning – DJ Heinle
* Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction: Simon Blenski from the City presented at April’s Committee meeting. The reconstruction project will seek City Council approval in June. Construction is scheduled to start in 2020. The proposal includes a protected bike lane at sidewalk level. Fritz asked what will be reduced to make room for the bike lane - street or sidewalk. DJ responded that both the car lanes and the sidewalk will be reduced. The proposal will also cut into the curb for the enhanced transit stops. Bryan commented that there is a survey online, if anyone is interested in commenting.
* Metro Transit Police and Bus Garage Update: Robert Rimstad presented at April’s Committee meeting. The project will be doing some demolition this fall. When the official site plan approval is ready, they will return to the Committee to share it.
* 419 Washington Avenue Project: Dean Dovolis from DJR presented for approval at April’s Committee meeting. The address is misleading; the project is actually on N 5th Ave. Because the site includes a surface parking lot as well as an existing building, the site address takes the name of the existing building (referred to as the Tech Center). The new construction will include retail on the first floor and offices above. Design will emulate the warehouse style with arches and brick. It also includes a roof top terrace. A skyway will cross the alley between the new building and the Tech Center, which will provide accessibility to the Tech Center. They will ask for a variance for the 5th Ave entrance, instead of a N 3rd St entrance. Though 5th Ave is classified as a freight street, it is preferable because 3rd St is a dead end street. The Committee approved a motion to support the project pending more information about trees/landscaping, patio seating, and the rooftop terrace. They asked DJR to return for a follow up presentation. Fritz inquired about tenants, as there is a lot of new office space coming into the neighborhood. DJ replied that they don’t seem to have tenants secured. Bryan asked if the proposal will affect the proposed pedestrian bridge. DJ responded that it was not part of the proposal, and that the status of any proposed pedestrian bridge is unknown. Tim asked about parking. DJ answered that the proposal includes the necessary parking, as they have not asked for a parking variance. David shared that he has some misgivings about introducing skyways to the neighborhood, but because it does not cross a street, it does not worry him. **A motion is made (DJ), seconded (Phil), and approved by the Board to support the project pending DJR’s return to present more information about the trees/landscaping, patio seating, and rooftop terrace.**
* Planning + Zoning Committee 2016 Member Roster: The Committee approved the roster for 2016, which includes DJ Heinle and Dave Decker as Co-Chairs; and Alice Eichholz, Francesco Parisi, Darwin Lookingbill, Sydney Anderson, Karen Rosar, Jo Vos, Kelly Nelson, Neil Reardon, and Mark Hill as Committee members. **A motion is made (DJ), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to approve the Planning + Zoning Committee 2016 Member Roster.**
* Discussion Forum: David recapped the Discussion Forum, for which Curt Gunsbury of Solhem presented plans for Solhem’s 721 N 1st St project. The plans were already approved by the Planning + Zoning Committee. Due to a large amount of neighborhood interest, the Committee hosted an open forum. The room was full of interested neighbors and the discussion lasted for approximately one hour.
1. Livability – Greening & Lighting Update – Fritz Kroll
* Fritz shared a list of new trees that were approved last fall, but have not yet been planted. He asked if there is support to look at funding for the remaining trees. The Board expressed support, perhaps starting at 801 or Tractor Works. David mentioned the new HCMC clinic that will be opening in Tractor Works, and that they could be approached to help fund as a welcome to the neighborhood gift to the neighborhood.
* Fritz confirmed that he will follow up on the trees, and that the timing is good for pursuing this. David offered to get a map of the City-approved trees.
1. NL park update – Katie Day
* No update
* DJ shared that he was contacted by a representative from Downtown East Committee, who is also the steering committee chair of Triangle Park. They have interesting ideas about how to set up a nonprofit and approach fundraising. Katie replied that the next meeting is focused on funding, so she would like to connect.
1. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff
* Phil spoke with with the Minneapolis Police Department. There were no major incidents to report, which is a good thing.
* The next First Precinct Court Watch is scheduled for Friday, May 13 at 10 AM in the Doty Conference Room at the Main Library on the second floor.
* The next Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting is planned for Wednesday, May 23 from 4:30-6 PM in Room 212 of City Hall.
* The next Block Club meeting is Thursday May 12 at 6-7:30 PM at Dunn Brothers at 337 North Washington Ave.
* Phil has reached out to Mackenzie Turner Barber to come talk about standardized crosswalks markings at the May or June meeting. Has not yet had the chance to coordinate with her.
1. Sustainability/Community Garden – Bryan Hollaway
* Bryan distributed the coupons from Mother Earth Gardens that went out in fliers to encourage residents to participate in the Beautify Your Balcony project.
* A solar community gardens event on May 12 at 7pm will offer residents the opportunity to buy in to solar gardens to offset their energy consumption. Bryan attended a community connections networking event and received a recommendation for two solar garden providers. These two organizations will each make a 10-minute presentation at the event, and residents can choose to sign up a program on the spot. This event is intended for individual residents, not just businesses. Both programs seem like a good way to not only invest in renewable energy, but also save money on energy costs over time. Bryan is working on fliers with more details.
1. NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES
* David reviewed that at the retreat the Board discussed neighborhood priorities. These priorities, which include infrastructure investment, pedestrian safety improvements, on-street parking, affordable housing, and neighborhood beautification, will be incorporated into future meetings. He asked if anyone has ideas about these topics.
* Tim responded about the neighborhood beautification topic. He commented about adding trash and recycling cans to Washington Avenue. There are two ways to go about it: 1) have a property owner take on the responsibility and pay for it on their utility bill, or 2) NLNA can take on the responsibility, managing and paying for collection. DJ comments that he supports a door knocking campaign to encourage businesses and property owners to take on a garbage and recycling container. David suggested that if NLNA was to undertake the responsibility for containers, they could through a fundraiser to cover the payments for a year. Tim commented that if NLNA is responsible for trash cleanup on Washington Avenue, it makes sense to pursue this. The question is how. Fritz suggested the they try working with property owners and building associations first, and if there is not enough interest, the Board can look further into option 2. The owner of Metro Dogs added that if the Board can present ways to thank a business for its support (e.g. showing how a “thank you” on the website would look), then Metro Dogs would be in - and others would also be more willing to participate. Fritz asked about the target number of containers. Tim replied that there are nine blocks on Washington Avenue between Plymouth and Hennepin. Tim, Bryan, and Fritz indicated that they are interested in working on this effort and will connect after the meeting.
1. OLD BUSINESS
2. NRP funding update – JR Maddox not at meeting.
* No update
1. 2020 Partners Update – David Frank
* No update
1. DNG Update – DJ Heinle
* Planning had been underway for residential passports, based on the City’s goals for residential growth. The effort was put on hold when focus shifted to preparations for the Parade of Homes. The group had been meeting regularly, and will start work on residential passports again this fall.
1. NEW BUSINESS
* By-laws Review: David confirmed that all Board members had seen the proposed changes. **A motion is made (David), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to adopt the updated by-laws.**
* David shared that the Superbowl organizers have offered again to come present at a Board meeting. If the Board has interest in the future, the offer stands.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

