

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**May 25, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**514 Studios, 514 3rd Street North**

**Attendees**: Philip Ailiff, Tim Bildsoe, David Frank, Bryan Hollaway, Fritz Kroll, Diane Merrifield, Francesco Parisi, Scott Woller.

**Absent:** JR Maddox, Katie Day, DJ Heinle.

1. May Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 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 (Diane), seconded (Tim), and approved by the Board to approve the May Board Meeting Agenda.**
3. **A motion is made (Tim), seconded (Diane), and approved by the Board to approve the April 27, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes.**
4. COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENTATION

* Councilmember Jacob Frey was unable to make it to this meeting.

1. FINANCE REPORT–Tim Bildsoe

* Tim reviewed spending and account balances. He showed one potential budget format for board review, and he asked for volunteers to help develop a format. Scott and Bryan volunteered to assist.

1. NEIGHBOR COMMENTS

* Modist Brewing opened recently in the neighborhood, and they want to be involved in the North Loop and help draw attention to the area.
  + Beer sales for take home are in cans. The largest can that may be sold on the premises is the growler. This size replaces the glass growler size.
  + A neighbor expressed concern about finding the brewery. Modist confirmed that additional signage is in the works.
* Minneapolis Pedestrian Update – Mackenzie Turner Bargen:
  + Mackenzie Turner Bargen with City of Minneapolis Bike PED and Pedestrian Planning gave an update, but had no hard copies.
  + Projects Near North Loop: Downtown Pedestrian Improvement project: 18-22 intersections to be upgraded to be ADA compliant.
  + New crosswalk buttons that do not need to be pushed to bring up WALK sign.
  + Nicollet Mall project is underway. 5th Ave South/Hennepin
  + 6th Ave North is being reconstructed – to be completed in September.
  + Late July to Early August: 1st Ave N will get restriping. Parking will move back to curbside, which allows for interesting opportunities for parklots.
  + 2018 maybe 2019 – North Loop Neighborhood Improvement
    - 15-20 intersections
    - 1st, 2nd, 3rd street
    - Not working on Washington
    - Crossing improvement at intersections – signal updates, curb extensions, decrease crossing distance
  + Scott asked if there is any way for the neighborhood to provide feedback?
    - Feedback is general at this point, but once planning process begins in next 6 months there is an opportunity for feedback.
    - A neighbor asked if 6th Avenue utilities would be moved underground as part of construction. David confirmed that this question has been asked and the response was no.
  + Tim – Pavement condition is a big determining factor in Capitol Improvement Projects. City Council just passed recent resolution.
  + Mackenzie shared that they are working on a crosswalk marking framework, but it has not been formally supported by City Council, but should go to Council sometime this summer.
    - The framework recommends Continental style crosswalk blocks citywide. In addition to new markings:
* 2ft step and pull that back to 10 foot.
* Install in all durable materials
* Recessed slightly – last 5-7 years.
* Addressing the funding to make happen in 10-20 years
* This came about as campaign in other cities
* Adding locations that would get crosswalks that are currently not existing – Areas of priority include areas with schools, parks, recreation, and public libraries.

Questions for Mackenzie:

* Bryan asks if raised crosswalks are accepted or recommended in the framework? Mackenzie clarifies that she does not think we have any raised crossings or if they would be possible.
* Neighbor Comment- New Business Introduction
  + Renewal Care based in New York has just opened a location in the neighborhood. The CEO from this area. The temp office is located at 915 Brunsfield until a more permanent office is found.
  + Very small- just getting started. Being involved is a big thing for the company.
* Neighbor Comment
  + Does North Loop ever address property taxes?

David shares that their nonprofit status probably prevents them from taking a stance on political issues.

* Neighbor Comment
  + They recently visited a bicycle bar in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She said it was a really fun idea to have a bar that was made foe those that rode their bike. Wanted to share a fun new idea, maybe something for the North Loop?

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS
2. Marketing and Promotions – Scott Woller

* North Loop Bike Tour is being hosted on June 13 at 6pm.
  + Any business that wants to be a part of it should contact Scott.
* Friday August 26th has been picked as the date for movie screening on the lawn at Target Field. There is a cost of $200-300 for an operator from the stadium to be present and the cost of movie rental varies based on genre selected between $200-1000. David says that the board trusts Scott to select the movie that will be shown.
* It is discussed if there is the possibility for sponsorship opportunities with Modist Brewing.
* National Night Out will be on Tuesday August 2nd. Scott suggests this event be on NLNA’s budget radar.
  + David says that for past 6 years donations have been made to a different National Night Out in downtown. David also suggests that a donation be made to any effort to have a more local National Night Out that is more based in the North Loop.
  + Modist Brewing also expressed interested in supporting this event as well.
  + David clarified that the neighborhood should come forward and plan something and then come to the NLNA board to ask for support.

1. Website – Diane Merrifield

* Diane shared that there were over 4,000 visits to the website in April. Last year at the same time the number of visits was 3,000. The North Loop Fashion Crawl brought a lot of traffic to the site and there have been a lot of directory inquiries.
* Currently the website sells banner ads for $500 annually with space for 10 ads per year.
  + Fritz asks if increased website traffic could warrant more ad space/more companies or the ability to charge more money?
  + Diane confirms that the ads are currently on the homepage as a rotating banner of 10 ads.
* Modist Brewing mentions that social media is a huge tool for them to help promote and could be a good way for cross promotions.
  + Modist Brewing currently has an audience of 4,000 so far.
* Fritz agrees to try to sell 10 ads and somebody else to sell 5. Ads to be sold for $500 annually. To clarify the $500 is also considered a donation.

1. Planning + Zoning – DJ Heinle not at meeting. Dave Decker gave update.

* Bottineau Blue Line LRT Extension –space under bridge: Presentation was made by the Metropolitan Council seeking input from the committee about how space under tracks is treated as the train transitions to street level near the Target Field station.
  + There were mixed feelings express by the board and a general consensus that more details need to be known before making a committee recommendation. Metropolitan Council was asked to come back and make a second presentation once more details were available.
* No action was taken at this meeting.
* The board may reach out to Jacob Frey to ask about the Duffy buildings and suggest a program or agenda for their use if they are sold and developed at some point.
* Karen asked is there was interest from another board member to attend Minneapolis Farmers Market meetings. Dave asked Bryan if this was something he would be interested in attending and Bryan said yes.
* Public Art – suggested to get an inventory of electrical boxes- traffic light boxes are now the focus. This project has been put on hold because of the budget.
* The Planning & Zoning committee was asked to write a letter of support for a grant that Higher Ground is seeking for a scanning security system. The letter does not even need to be a letter of support, simply a letter indicating the organization has heard about this grant that Higher Ground is seeking.
  + It is recommended that DJ go ahead and write this letter.

1. North Loop Business – Warehouse District Business Association

* Warehouse Committee Meeting- Target Center Reps were there the meeting. 1st Ave charges are a very big deal. Fritz is on Board of this committee.

1. Livability – Greening & Lighting Update – Fritz Kroll

* Fritz went around to local businesses asking if there is interested in getting more trash cans that are adopted by business. He got about 20 strong maybes, but no commitments at this point in time.
* There is concern for a garden at 124 & 126 1st Street that is not well maintained. Fritz got an estimate of the cost to replant would be $1,031. He asked the board if that figure was a little high?

Board members asked if there would be a way for the neighborhood or other businesses to adopt this planter? It was however clarified that we do not have owner permission at this time.

* Fritz also got an estimate to install trees: we want 2-3 bids. John Slack is our contact to get more information.
* Most of the dead trees have already been replanted.
  + Francesco mentioned concern that he noticed that the newly replanted trees are bent towards building about 20degrees.
  + Fritz confirmed that he spoke with an arborist and they do not recommend staking the new trees.

1. NL park update – Katie Day not at meeting.

* No update at meeting.
* Katie’s report on the park was sent in advance to the board via email.

1. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff

* Phil mentioned that the last meeting they had was one of the best turn outs they have seen. He has been encouraging building management to post meeting notices. Updated crime stats were not available for this last meeting. Some people in attendance commented that 5th Ave 2nd St N dangerous intersection. Others mentioned prostitute problem.
* There was a recent shooting that began outside of Pizza Luce and suspect ran into North Loop.
* Recent 1st precinct open house -
  + 650 dinners served and approx. 1000 attendees.
* Last few weeks only crimes notified about:
  + 730 Building- theft of moped
  + Theft from a motor vehicle- sunglasses and gum were stolen.
* The next block club meeting will determined at another time.
* The next Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting is planned for Wednesday, June 1, 6 PM in Room 333 of City Hall.
* The next court watch meeting will be held on June 10th at 10am.

1. Sustainability/Community Garden – Bryan Hollaway

* Bryan report that the community solar meeting poorly attended.
* The meeting presented information about the option to enroll in solar power that is generated in active solar gardens.
  + Typically there is a 9-10% cost savings each month.
  + The only risk would be their cancellation fees. It is a 25-year contract, which can be carried with you if you move to adjacent counties. If you factor in the savings on your bill each month, 2 years under contract would pay for the cancellation fee.
  + There is a sense of urgency for those in the neighborhood to enroll since there is a limited amount of space to do these solar gardens. There is some push back that may limit these opportunities in the future.
* It was asked – How to get this information out to residents?
  + Put information on NLNA website, social media, and the newsletter.

1. NEIGHBORHOOD PRIORITIES

* Infrastructure Investment – It is proposed that a letter is drafted to send to elected officials about infrastructure investment. Bryan, David, and Fritz will help draft the letter. A meeting will be set up for the three board members to draft the letter.
* Pedestrian Safety – It is proposed that a similar letter is drafted to send to elected officials about concerns for pedestrian safety.
* On-Street Parking – More short-term parking? Maps and Info has been gathered. Scott and Tim will work on looking at maps and determining recommendations for new short term parking.
* Affordable Housing – The Cameron Historic Lofts Building will have their grand opening on June 8th. These units are all affordable housing.
* Beautification –
  + More trash cans for neighborhood sidewalks – you can either pay to have the City maintain your can or you can adopt it and the City will give you a nice can for free.
  + Street cleaning volunteer opportunity arranged by NLNA will take place along Washington Avenue on June 4th.
  + Public Art is waiting on budget.
  + Banners are waiting on budget.

1. OLD BUSINESS
2. NRP funding update – JR Maddox not at meeting.

* No update

1. 2020 Partners Update – David Frank

* Update on Southwest LRT. Confident that the transportation bill will get through the legislature.
* A report on soccer. 99.9% sure it will be in St. Paul.
* Presentation by City of Minneapolis and UrbanWorks Architecture about the possible redevelopment of the Minneapolis Farmers Market was shared with 2020 Partners.
* Presentation of Target Center improvements. Same presentation that Fritz mentioned earlier in the meeting.
* After a budget is created, NLNA has been asked to contribute to 2020 Partners. Sponsorship has been $3,000 for the past 2-3 years. This request can be held till the budget.

1. DNG Update – DJ Heinle not at meeting.

* No update

1. NEW BUSINESS

* No update

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM