

Meeting Minutes

North Loop Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Meeting

Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 North 1st Street

july 20, 2016

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| Welcome and Introductions—DJ Heinle* The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.
* Six committee members were present: DJ Heinle, Alice Eichholz, Karen Lee Rosar, Neil Reardon, Francesco Parisi, and Jo Vos.
* A motion is made (Karen), seconded (DJ), and approved by the Board to approve the May 18, 2016 Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting Minutes. The planning & Zoning Committee did not meet in June.
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| Glenwood Avenue Project - Kristy Morter, Hennepin County* **Kristy Morter from Hennepin County made a presentation about the Glenwood Avenue (County Road 40) Improvements project.**

****The project purpose and need:**** * **Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to contribute to transit ridership at future Royalston light rail trasit (LRT) station.**
* **Strengthen connections to nearby neighborhoods by improving facilities, streetscapes and street crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists.**
* **Create a corridor allowing for redevelopment as a dense multi-use commercial corridor.**
* **Accommodate the Southwest LRT bridge reconstruction by Metropolitan Council**
* **Improve road condition (pavement quality).**

****Anticipated project timeline:**** * **Preliminary design: Spring 2016 – Fall 2016**
* **Community input: 2016**
* **Detail design: Fall 2016 – Spring 2017**
* **Construction: 2018 (to be coordinated with Southwest LRT construction schedule)**

**Hennepin County is looking for feedback about introducing green space. The project includes putting in new signals at all intersections. A typical section design under consideration would have the road with one lane each direction with turn lanes, bike lanes in each direction, boulveards on each side and sidewalks on each side. DJ shares that the board is supportive of street trees beingincorrporated. Francesco asked why it could not be sidewalk🡪 bike🡪trees🡪road, in order to have a protected bike lane? Karen noted that what is shown as a typical section is a significant improvement for bike lanes than what is curently there. Alice asked about why are some exisiting trees on the map indicated for removal? Kristy clarified that in some cases trees need to be removed to give room for the boulevard. Jo shared that it seems to be a shame to cut down those exisiting trees. DJ noted that there is a big need for parking for the Farmer’s Market. DJ also shared that low plantings with wire around them have been working in the North Loop Neighborhood. Kristy said that for those types of plantings it is hard to find people to maintain and care for those gardens. To wrap up DJ asked if the board needs to make any feedback official? Kristy said that was not needed, this presentation was intended to be more informational.**C- Line: Potentail Long-Term Realignment Study & and Route 9 Study - Terrence was not in attendence. Scott from Metro Transit gave the presentation instead.* **C Line- Rapid bus line from Brooklyn Center Bus Center to Downtown Minneapolis is being planned. The current planning has the line running on Olsen Memorial Highway till it goes north on Penn Avenue. Metro Transit is currently looking at possible realignment of the route to Glenwood Avenue, knowing that the Blue Line LRT is also planned to run on Olson Memorial Highway. The realighment would better distribute that transit service. Metro Transit is currently looking to gather input during early phase of this study.**
* **Details about Rapid Bus Service- These routes are faster & more comfortable. The bus only stops every ¼ to ½ mile so stops are less frequent. The buses are more comfortable - 60ft accordian buses. More substantial stations, real time sign info. This C-line Rapid Bus would substantially replace route 19. Currently route 19 only runs every ½ hour. The new C Line Rapid Bus would run a schedule similar to LRT.**
* **The plan is to start with temporary service on Olson Memorial Highway and the Glenwood realighment would be a long term move. Metro Transit is currently in a preliminary outreach phase from August through September. Metro Transit can come back to the committee once there are more details available. C Line moving forward regardless of the realignment and operations are set to begin in 2017.**
* **There is also a Route 9 transit study taking place. They are looking to simplify the route to streamline the service. Scott encouraged all to contact Terrance Anderson about Route 9 feedback or questions.**
* **Alice mentioned that there are more and more businesses going up on Glenwood and thinks the realignemnt would be good from the standpoint of not overlapping service. Francesco mentioned that if realighned Glenwood would become prime real estate. Neil asked if the bus line were relocated to Glenwood, would you locate bike lanes behind bus stops? How does the bus line interact with bike facilities? Scott from Metro Transit confirmed that there will be coordination between Hennepin County and Metro Transit. Scott said that a lot of feedback lately are about concerns of traffic on Glenwood. Jo confirmed that Glenwood is very busy at 5pm.**

Red Rabbit Restaurant, 201 N Washington – Restaurant representatives and Studio M Architects* **The owners from Red Cow are proposing a new resturant called Red Rabbit at 201 North Washington. The menu would include Pizza, pasta, oysters, etc… and be done in the style similar to the Red Cow. The resturant would be open for lunch, brunch on weekends and dinner. At the back of the building would be a patio and some parking. At this point they are assuming seating about for about 60 outside and 130 inside. The brick on the façade of the building will remain and be painted red on Washington Avenue and painted black on 2nd. Windows are being added along Washington and old windows are being exposed on 2nd. DJ asked if there will be live performances/music? the resturant representatives said there would not be live performamce/music. DJ- shared that one of the committee’s areas of interst is in advocating for street tree. The committee will support adding trees on Washington as well as maintaining and/or adding trees along 2nd as well. The restaurant reps shared that they are hoping for construction to start in the next month. They are shooting for November 21st opening of the resturant.**
* After a presentation made by representatives from Red Rabbit Restaurant and Studio M Architects, **a motion is made (Neil), seconded (Karen), and approved by the Board to support the Red Rabbit restaurant project as presented with the strong recommendation to add additional street trees along the Washington Avenue frontage and support the landscape plan as shown with street trees screening the parking area along N 2nd Avenue and maintaining the existing street trees.**

The following is the text of the motion of support letter presented to Studio M Architects on behalf of the North Loop Neighborhood Association Planning+Zoning Committee:“On July 20, 2016, representatives from Red Rabbit Restaurant and Studio M Architects presented to the North Loop Planning+Zoning committee the proposed redevelopment of 201 N Washington Ave, formerly an auto service site. The project as planned would rehabilitate the existing building by preserving the decorative façade, adding building signage, providing windows, and painting the exterior red and gray. The building is a proposed restaurant by the owners of Red Cow and will have a bar, restaurant seating area, and an exterior patio. Accessibility improvements are also planned for the building. Construction is set for August and a tentative open in November. The North Loop Neighborhood Association is in support of the project as presented with the strong recommendation to add additional street trees along the Washington Avenue frontage and support the landscape plan as shown with street trees screening the parking area along N 2nd Avenue and maintaining the existing street trees.” |
| **----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Neighborhood Comments* **No Neighborhood Comments this month.**
* Francesco had follow-up from a neighbohood concern brought up at the last meeting. –During the June meeting there were concerns of historic signage being demolished on tractor works building. Francesco celled the Minneapolis preservation committee and left a message. In a follow up phone call they said that the group that removed the signage had applied for removal; provided documentation and was granted permission to remove the signage and fill the void with historic bricks from a different location on the building.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------Old Business* **No old business to discuss this month.**

**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------****Committee Business** Street Improvements- The City has been asked to change the crosswalk indicators to automatic rather than push button. Increasing street parking is also a priority. Beautification- Looking to replace North Loop branded banners. Hoping to have the banners go all the way down Washington to 10th, there are not banners currently that far down Washington. Greening as a priority includes trees, planters, community gardens. Lighting - Katie & Francesco shared that they approached the board at 801 and the 801 board has agreed to make a contributiion to lighting and is hoping for a partnership on this effort. DJ suggests that homeowners association and 801 board make a proposal.* **Art for Neighborhood Electrical Boxes - Francesco**

Francesco did an extensive Inventory of the light boxes in the neighborhood. Francesco will send inventory as PDF. He made the following determinations:* The boxes are mostly located on border of the North Loop
* Majority are only at traffic lights.
* Some boxes are not very visible in some areas and at times it was hard to find them.
* Francesco askes the board what should be the next step for this possible project?
* It needs to be determined how many and which ones to pursue. DJ gave Support doing them and gave a suggestion to pursue a small number of boxes, maybe 5?
* The number of boxes and location depends on the budget and it is reccomended that the locations be picked on a case-by-case basis because of issues with visibiility.
* DJ also shared that he would rather put money into lighting but at this point we are not sure if lighting is possible. It was also mentioned as a reminder that the art on the boxes will only last three years.
* It is decided to table this topic for now, but to keep in mind a pursuit of about 5 boxes if able.

The committee adjourned at 7:28 pm.**end of minutes** |  |