

Meeting Minutes

North Loop Neighborhood Planning & Zoning Meeting

Heritage Landing Community Room, 415 North 1st Street

MAY 18, 2016

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| Welcome and Introductions—DJ Heinle* The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
* Ten committee members were present: DJ Heinle, Dave Decker, Kelly Nelson, Sydney Anderson, Alice Eichholz, Karen Lee Rosar, Neil Reardon, Francesco Parisi, Jo Vos, and Mark Hill.
* A motion is made (Alice), seconded (Sydney), and approved by the Board to approve the April 20, 2016 Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting Minutes.
* A question was raised in clarifiaction of the Minutes that were arrpoved from the January 2016 meeting. DJ confinfirmed the minutes that were approved from the January 2016 meeting did contain a typo about height details about the new proposed apartment building at 721 North 1st Street. When the committee took it’s vote during the January meeting they did vote on the correct height.
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| Bottineau LRT Blue Line Extension – Sophia Ginis – Metropolitan Council (Minneapolis Outreach Coordinator for Southwest and Bottineau LRT Projects), Becky - Transportation planner for the City of Minneapolis, and Shelley Miller - Metropolitan Council (Station Design Lead/Project Coordinator for Blue Line Extension) * **Sophia Ginis prefaced this presentation by saying that the Metropolitan Council was coming to the P&Z Committee for advice on a specific section of the Blue Line Extension Design. Sophia provided the committee with a draft document showing two proposed options for a specific portion of the Bottineau LRT Blue Line Extension. The area in question is the area near the existing Target Field Station at the intersection of 6th Ave, North 7th Street, and Olson Memorial Highway. Option one showed an LRT overhead bridge that had a void space under it with fencing outlining the space under the bridge. The second option showed a concrete wall filling the void under the LRT bridge.**
* **Sophia noted that the overall project hopes to be under construction in 2018 and up and running for passenger opertaions by 2021. Sophia also mentioned that the design team is still figuring out most of the details for this particular site so many of the clarifiying questions that committee were asking are simply not figured out yet. Sophia estimated that the design would be at 30% by mid summer and at 60% by December or the new year.**
* **The commttee members had a lengthty, mixed discussion about the two options presented at this meeting, however no conclusive decision was provided for one option over the other. The board expressed that they would need more details about the area in questions to made a committee wide decision. Sophia recapped the disccusuon by saying that her take away from the NLNA P&Z Committee was the following:**
* **1) The wall Option presents an opportunity for public art. The space behind the “void” is not something you really want o see anyways. this opinion was not shared by all on the committee.**
* **2) The option without the filled wall is more flexible over the long term, less imposing, also has opportunities for public art/possible gathering space. Fencing as shown in the representations is not the soluntion. There is a possible opportunity for natural landscaping in the void space amongst other suggestions.**
* **3) If the board were asked to maked a choice they would ultimately want more information about more of the detials that factor into this portion of the project**. DJ confirmed that the best option for the committee at this point in time would be for Sophia to provide a report to the committee when more details are available so that the board and committee can review at that time. Sophia confirmed that she would reach back out to DJ once they have more information to provide.****
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| **----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**Neighborhood Comments* **No Neighborhood Comments this month.**

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**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------****Committee Business*** (Park CAC) Jo confrimed that Park CAC is pretty much done for now. There is a draft that exists online and money has been assisgned to exisitng projects so it comes down to funding and details at this point. Karen asked about the landscape work that is being done by Star Tribune Building. Jo stated that she believes they are replacing paths that have been damaged by cracks and tree roots. The assumed improvemnts included taking out the problem roots and stabalizing the hillside. Jo feels the work of the park CAC is done at this point.
* (West Broadway Transit Study CAC) The work is done so the work of the West Broadway Transit Study CAC is done at this point.
* (Art for Neighborhood Electrical Boxes) Francesco has volunteered to take the lead on this effort. He had a conversation with the City about the process and reported that only traffic light boxes are eligible (not Xcel boxes). Each box will need to be self funded (no City funding available) and will cost approximately $750-$1,000 per box. The cost is the same for both wrapped boxes and custom painted boxes. The biggest difference between the two is that custom painted boxes are easier to maintain but require $5 million in insurance; wrapped boxes would be insured by the installer. The City also requires proof that the artist was paid a fair wage. The question is whether we have the budget and the will. Alice commented that Jo and Sydney took photos of all the boxes in the neighborhood, she would like to know which of those boxes would be eligible. The committee agreed that next steps are to inventory how many boxes in the neighborhood would be eligible, bring those findings to the P & Z Committee, and then bring the inventory to the NLNA Board to make a decision on how to proceed.
* Karen mentioned that she would like to see if there is a differnt board member that would like to attend Farmers Market Meetings instead? This was mentioned at the NLNA Board Meeting the following week.
* Dave asked if there are any other committees they should think about forming at this point? Possible Super Bowl Committee? DJ thinks there are plenty of Super Bowl committees that already exist but there are opportunititeis for the North loop with the influx of visitors during that event. DJ said that he can get additional information through the Downtown Neighborhood Group so a new NLNA committee for this will not be formed at this time.
* Alice asked if United Properties or Greco could come speak to the committee about their new project on Washington Avenue. DJ conrimed that he has spoken to United Properties and they have expressed that it is too early for the May meeting but they could arrange something for the next meeting in June.
* Alice also mentioned that Jacob Frey posted about the Duffy Buildings on Facebook. Alice thought it may be good to throw out the idea and support of a possible community center. Alice clarified that Jacob’s post was just throwing the idea out there looking for feedback from people in a very generalized manner, assuming that eventually the Duffy Owned Property may be sold. It was suggested to try to get Jacob to attend a NLNA Board Meeting or Planning & Zoning Meeting soon since he has been unable to attend for a while.
* Sydney informed the board that she is now with a new company –Greystar.
* The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016, at 6 pm. The committee adjourned at 7:11 pm.

**end of minutes** |  |