

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**April 26, 2017**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**Attendees**: Tim Bildsoe, Diane Merrifield, Andy Risvold, Phil Ailiff, Scott Woller,

Jeff Borg, Fred Dawe, Fritz Kroll, Francesco Parisi, Mark Huting, and Katie Day

1. April Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M.; those in attendance introduced themselves by stating their names and building of residence or business or employment in the neighborhood. Agendas are made available on the counter.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Fritz, and approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda.**
3. **Motion is made by Jeff, seconded by Mark, and approved by the Board to amend and approve the minutes from the March meeting.** 
   1. Amendment: On page 6, under the infrastructure and improvements heading, clarification is added by specifying 5th 8th, and 7th *Avenues* and 3rd *Street*.
4. Neighborhood Engagement – North Loop Neighbors
   1. Steve Fox mentions that there are not enough street lights across the street on Washington Avenue, in front of the Creamette Building. Fritz suggests talking with the building management company in the short-term; as a longer-term solution for having street lighting added, Phil suggests contacting the Police Department, as it can send staff to examine the area and suggest the appropriate placement of lights.
5. Council Member Engagement – Jacob Frey and Blong Yang
   1. Councilmember Frey cannot attend tonight, but will attend in May; Councilmember Yang has not responded yet to the invitation.
6. Finance Report – Tim Bildsoe
   1. Tim sent out an e-mail with account balances; he also has report copies available. The contribution from the City for CPP is $42,789. A few checks are not reflected in that total. There are some reimbursements for expenses from last year, like the Candy Grab and annual meeting. $30,000 has rolled over into a new contract and will be available as we go forward. $20,000 is restricted for the tree project and such funds have been clearly identified with the bookkeeper.
7. Secretary’s Report – Jeff Borg
   1. Jeff has nothing to report other than that people interested can sign up for the mailing list with him.
8. NLNA Priorities – Committee Reports
   1. Planning & Zoning – Fred Dawe
      1. First meeting with new members;
         1. 14 of the 15 committee member were present.
         2. There are questions about the role of subcommittees. David Frank indicated that those were special interest reports, now much of which have been absorbed by the Board. Many of the topics covered by the subcommittees haven’t been part of the meetings for some time, as they were more relevant or more robust topics in 2015 (for example, transportation (LRT) is no longer as pertinent). The Charter requires every committee member to serve on at least one subcommittee; perhaps it is now appropriate to amend the Charter. Ben Shardlow’s City’s design and lighting group would be a good subcommittee for P&Z, as would one revolving around parking meter variation, which could also be part of the parking engagement group. Issue will be addressed in the next P&Z meeting.
         3. Tim suggests having the City’s community development staff talk about the role of the neighborhood association in the development process, what the City looks for, what can be done to better the overall process, etc. Beth is likely the best person to connect with. Diane mentions that people often ask at what point do they need to come to P&Z; it would be useful to clarify that. Phil also suggests talking with Public Works staff (Steve Mosing and Mike Kennedy).
      2. 3 developments were on the agenda, but only one presented: Beacon’s Great River Landing Project.
         1. The development and its operational service plan were reviewed in great detail. Fred mentions that many questions regarding the operation and services of the building were asked. The information will be reflected in the meeting minutes and anyone who wasn’t present and has questions or wants to learn more about the project, its governance, design, etc., would be well-suited to read them.
         2. This is the fourth affordable housing project that the congregations have completed. Beacon has secured over $600,000 in private funds for this development.
         3. Beacon thanks the NLNA for its initial letter of support. Since that time, it has secured nearly all funding for the project, which is now moving through land use approvals. It would love to continue with the Board conversations around grant opportunities.
         4. The project will provide 72 homes for those locked out of opportunities for permanent housing because of histories of incarceration. The building includes 8 four-bedroom community suites and 40 efficiency apartments. Beacon incorporated P&Z’s and the Committee of the Whole’s comments to further activate the outdoor space, add a playground, and reduce the amount of pavement.
         5. The one-year construction period is set to begin before the end of the year and hopefully no later than spring of 2018. The development is currently proceeding with land use approvals. The committee unanimously supported the six requests made by Beacon:
            1. Variance for density levels; the required floor area ratio is 2.00 and the project, the building area of which is limited by Bassett Creek, is at 1.72.
            2. A conditional use permit is required for the 5 surface lot parking stalls proposed for programming and visitor parking, as none is allowed currently in the Downtown Parking Overlay District.
            3. The residential windows on the interior side yard side of the building require a variance to the required setback of 13 feet to 6 feet;
            4. The site must be rezoned to B4H Downtown Housing Overlay District because of its proximity to the Salvation Army and the supportive housing classification of each;
            5. Supportive housing requires a conditional use permit;
            6. Site plan review.
         6. Mark mentions that he really enjoyed the presentation and likes the mission of the project. He thinks that lots of residents and businesses would be interested in the program.
         7. The Board asks that Beacon please continue to update it on exterior material selection, as when the project was presented to P&Z, selections weren’t finalized. Francesco suggests using hand-laid bricks, unpainted metal, and other material that is inherent to the neighborhood and that stucco is systematically discouraged. Also, once exterior signage is being considered, to please consult with P&Z.
         8. Tim requests that Beacon install outside garbage cans, as part of an active effort to keep the neighborhood clean and instill a sense of ownership. Trash cans are very difficult to install after the building is complete. The City has no-cost and low-costs options for trash pickup. This will also be included in the letter of support.
         9. NLNA has adopted Washington Avenue as a cleanup area. It would be great if residents were to participate in cleanups in the future, as they are a great way to meet neighbors and further instill pride in the neighborhood.
         10. **Motion is made by Mark, seconded by Fritz, and approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for Beacon’s six land use application requests.**
   2. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
      1. Candy Grab – Even with rain, over 200 people attended. There was great community engagement at the event. Scott will e-mail out the written feedback from participants: most had questions around parks. Diane learned about a mini-grant program. Scott presented the Board with a $300 check for unused funds as other sponsors stepped up and the amount was no longer needed.
      2. Earth Day – Approximately 70 people were cleaning throughout the neighborhood.
      3. Signage – The new A-frame sign and table throw are great! The Board should try to use them as much as possible. Hopefully the A-frame sign can be stored at Heritage Landing, so that it can be displayed for meetings. The other materials can be stored at Corner Coffee. The Board should order 100 signs with the background color similar to that of the A-frame sign. The signs cost $47 a piece; the other bid was much, much higher. CPP funding may be able to cover the cost. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Jeff, and approved by the Board to approve the $4,700 purchase of 100 signs.** A prototype will be at 5th Street and Washington Avenue; hardware (approximately $3.00 per sign) will be addressed at a later date.
      4. Newsletters give a good bump to the website. Scott would like to have one ready in 30 days, but needs content. Please provide a short write-up of 100 words or less, with photos. The best publication dates would be timed with an event as well. The newsletter will mention the next cleanup in June and perhaps a movie series or a photo contest? Businesses might be receptive to donating gift cards for winners.
      5. Scott made a pending request to the Twins for National Night Out, which is held on the first Tuesday in August, to sponsor a movie showing at 6:30 P.M. and to provide hot dogs.
      6. Bike storage
         1. Two quotes were obtained:
            1. Dero: $1,518.55
            2. FixStation: $1,416.00 (which doesn’t include a 20% discount given to neighborhood organizations); delivery and installation are free. A branded logo can also be placed on the back of the tower. There is a 3-week lag time from order.
         2. The Park Board has been silent about the proposed location in the playground. T3 had some questions about a specific location, but was amenable to locating a station near the building and trail. T3 might be a better spot for the first one, as the Park Board and City don’t really like branding (a consideration if it is to be included).
         3. These costs are eligible for NRP money, as long as two quotes are pursued. NLNA would pay for the items and then be reimbursed.
         4. It would be great to install a bunch of these station throughout the neighborhood over the next 5 years.
         5. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and approved by the Board to order the FixStation bike service station at a cost of $1416 that is to be reimbursed with NRP funding.**
      7. 2020 Partners – Dan Collison
         1. There has been a request made from a recruiter who wanted to provide information about the North Loop to businesses that may want to locate in the neighborhood.
         2. There are lots of people want to craft a response – developers, PR firms, businesses – who see that this can become a very valuable recruiting tool and advertising piece.
         3. The goal is to connect all who want to promote the neighborhood and have a conversation in the next two weeks in which we set a scope for what we hope to accomplish, create a set of deliverables, and identify local companies willing to pay for the product, which would be a marketable portfolio to send to recruiters. Tim hands out an example of materials from Uptown, which are serviceable, but not especially compelling. Andy volunteers to be a part of group.
   3. North Loop Website – Diane Merrifield
      1. Diane has sent out the monthly report which shows a large jump in volume last month (3,600 to 4,800 in March). There were more referrals from www.minneapolis.org and from Facebook possibly due to the two new Japanese restaurants. There was also a spike the day before the Board meeting. Diane will watch to see if this trend continues, as March had the second highest volume in the website’s history.
      2. Diane asks if anyone has any suggested tweaks to or improvements for the website. There is $12,000 in the budget for a complete redo for next year.
      3. Three years ago sponsor ads began; they have been rotating 10 ads at $500 for a year. Fritz asks if this is still effective and appropriate, who wants to sell them, if paying customers would want a pool of fewer ads displayed, and if some analytics could be provided to purchasers. Diane suggests no more than 10 and they should be linked to the purchaser’s site. Direct businesses to Fritz. Andy suggests featuring a participating business in the newsletter.
   4. Neighborhood Revitalization Program – Fred Dawe
      1. The NLNA is required to spend the housing-specified money in the near future. Previous attempts at home improvement loan programs were unsuccessful. A possibility is to reallocate the money to an affordable housing development in the North Loop, one of which is YouthLink. The YouthLink project is in its fundraising stage right now; the City loves the project; the possibility was discussed with Robert Thompson. The language can be changed, but requires notification (21 days-notice) of a public hearing to identify the specific intent for funds (which can be posted in the newsletter), hosting of the hearing, and then a vote. The Board discusses the possibility of attaching beautification and design standard stipulations to the funding. **Motion is made by Fritz, seconded by Mark, and approved by the Board to begin the process of donating the NRP housing money to YouthLink by intending to announce a public hearing to amend the wording in the NRP housing agreement to allow for that donation.**
   5. North Loop Businesses – Andy Risvold
      1. Andy plans to go through the directory online and make sure that the information is current and correct; while consulting with the business owners, he will ask them to complete the survey and inquire what the NLNA can do for them. Andy will come back next month with a draft of the survey.
      2. Open Streets – Tim and Andy had a good meeting with Alex and they think it is a good opportunity for fundraising. Be the Match wants to connect its building with the neighborhood. The Downtown Neighborhood Association was considering having its own Open Streets, but is now going to participate in ours and donate $1,000 (we should also). It will have separate tables, but a presence in the same area. The Board needs 4 volunteers for June 11 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., with different shifts available. There will be street painting and activities for kids, as well as art vendors along Washington. Tim committed for 10 vendors at $25 a seat. Mark, Diane, Tim, Jeff, Andy, and Fritz volunteer. Andy suggests brewery involvement, perhaps donating beer and contributing the money raised for the North Loop sign. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Fritz, and approved by the Board to contribute $1000 to Open Streets.**
   6. Parks and Beautification – Fritz Kroll, Mark Huting, and Katie Day
      1. A summary will be sent out to the group.
      2. On May 6, work is to start on the greenway connection. Volunteers are needed between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. to help with clearing debris and shoveling gravel. The trees will be planted at a later date. There are currently a dozen people signed up.
      3. Mark suggests mapping out green connection points so that when development occurs, the Board knows about opportunities to preserve or improve green spaces or introduce parklettes nearby.
      4. There is a potential green connection through Washington Avenue to 2nd Street by Borough. The courtyard plaza with trees would open up a number of apartments to Washington Avenue; it really is a missing link. Goldman Sachs owns property and is interested in development, but it likely would be an expensive project.
      5. There is a potential new dog park site: a 40 feet wide x 4-blocks-long strip of property by the causeway is a City-owned property. Plans are to try to connect with Beth to create a deal. Schaeffer Richardson is building to the property line adjacent to the strip and SR is connected to the dog park board. The school property is not likely to work out for the dog park.
      6. The 800-900 block of Washington is all set to go with the tree planting program. Each tree requires 500 cubic feet of dirt removed so as to provide aerated soil under the concrete. Mark hopes to be able to keep all the required work at the planned pricing level.
      7. The City plans to plant about 60 trees – 30 of which have already been planted. Because the North Loop is outside of DID boundaries, S&S Watering Services seem to be a better fit, but the Board will keep DID in the loop on its plantings.
      8. A proposed pop-up garden shop wants a space in the neighborhood, but can’t be placed on City property – it needs a private space. Katie will reach out to some businesses, perhaps the Red Cow or Crisp & Green would volunteer a parking space.
   7. Neighborhood Safety – Phil Ailiff
      1. The Block Club is a smaller subset of the Virtual Block Club through which someone can sign up for crime alerts on the City’s webpage. Approximately 600 people have signed up.
      2. Bike thefts have increased (which is normal for springtime). High-end bikes are being taken out of garages. The Police had posted videos and photos, which show what appears to be the same yet-to-be-identified people involved in the thefts. Phil suggests putting some notice in the newsletter. A significant arrest of a person who had been stealing from vehicles in the ABC lots has been made recently.
      3. The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, May 3 from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. in City Hall, Room 333. All people are welcome.
      4. First Precinct Court Watch will be held at the County Library on May 12. Phil asks if someone could attend in his place. Not just jail, but triage, services, programming, and best practices in community policing are discussed at the meeting.
      5. There is a meeting on May 16, after the First Precinct Open House, during which different squads and team representatives will be present to talk with the community. It begins at 11:00 A.M.
      6. The 3rd Avenue corridor presents a lighting challenge; there is, however, $3,000 available for a pilot project and professional survey for difficult lighting areas, like 3rd and 5th Avenues, which are less than ideal.
      7. Summer beats are being increased.
   8. Infrastructure – Tim Bildsoe
      1. On May 11 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall, the City will be holding a public hearing for all projects included in the CIP PV 135 in 2019, which budgets $8 million for reconstruction; it would be great to have some people there to advocate for street repairs in the neighborhood. Tim hands out the list of planned repairs and will send out a reminder and calendar invite. There is one issue: historic reconstruction is not specified for the historic streets (5th Street and 3rd Avenue already included in CIP, but as with bituminous repairs, not brick). Tim will show photos of the street conditions at the meeting. 2020 Partners is to provide a recommendation letter on the neighborhood’s behalf.
9. Unfinished Business
   1. Downtown Open Streets will be held on Sunday, June 11.
10. New Business
    1. Volunteer Accident Coverage – Tim Bildsoe
       1. Tim strongly recommends coverage at a cost of $300. **Motion is made by** **Fritz, seconded by Diane, and approved by the Board to approve the purchase of volunteer accident insurance.**
    2. Mayoral and Council Debates – Tim Bildsoe
       1. Cohosting with Downtown Neighborhood Association
       2. Both the mayoral and third ward debates will be great engagement opportunities.
       3. In October, volunteers will be needed to be part of a presentation.
    3. 2020 Partners – Tim Bildsoe
       1. The Glenwood Corridor is in transition from an industrial to a commercial corridor. A convening will be held this summer for what will be happening and to explore the commercial and residential aspirations for the area.
       2. The Glenwood Corridor originates at the A Ramp and continues until the end of the Harrison neighborhood.
    4. Farmers Market Advisory Group Update – Mark Huting
       1. The next meeting will be held in May and plans for the West Loop will be discussed. Mark will send out the information.
11. Adjourned at 9:14 P.M.