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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**July 29, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86102672653?pwd=c2N4emhBczg2ZFJCLzl1QUUpOS1dlUT09>**

**Call-in #: 312-626-6799 (mtg ID: 861 0267 2653)**

10 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Tim Bildsoe, David Crary, Francesco Parisi, Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller, Ron Sliwinski, Mike Binkley, Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz, and Bri Sharkey-Smith.

1. July Board Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Tim.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Francesco, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the June Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Sheila Delaney, Craig Wilson, and Adam Fairbanks present the Indoor Villages Project.
    1. Safety issues in relation to unsheltered people in the wake of COVID-19 and George Floyd's murder. Sheila, Craig, and Adam are part of a qualified team that is searching for dignified solutions to address safety and security for all in this time of crisis.
    2. An estimated 800-1,000 people are living unsheltered in our region while only an average of 50 shelter beds are available on a given day. There are over 100 homeless encampments in Minneapolis alone.
    3. 16% of the Minnesotan population are currently experiencing housing insecurity as of July 13, 2020.
    4. 70% of Americans who experience homelessness are adults without children.
    5. Urgent need for an immediate solution – winter is coming, pandemic is growing, unprecedented unemployment and economic recession, eviction moratorium, etc.

6. Indoor Villages are communities of tiny homes that are created within existing buildings – often warehouses or department stores with large, open spaces.
    - a. Tiny home units are private, climate controlled, and have essential furnishings. Bathrooms are not within the tiny homes, they are communal.
    - b. Units are about the size of a parking stall – 12 feet by 8.5 feet.
    - c. Low cost, reusable, immediate production, personal privacy and security, individual units promote social distancing, creates community.
    - d. Initial design concept uses the Kmart building on Lake Street as a space for 70-100 tiny homes. An alternative space is being explored in the North Loop, at the corner of Plymouth Ave N and N Washington Ave. Tiny homes could be created at either or both of these locations, pending City and community support.
  - b. Minnesota Computer for Schools – receives donated computers, refurbishes them, and sells to schools as a cheap alternative to the cost of new tech. Connecting with the NLNA to reach people in the neighborhood that might be interested in holding a tech drive, where individuals and businesses can donate their laptops and other used technology and give back to Minnesota schools.
5. Finance Report – David Crary
- a. NLNA CPP Funds Reallocation - Updates
    1. NLNA needs to reclassify roughly \$29,100 in CPP & NPP funds to meet our priorities
      - a. We currently have \$18,400~ in CPP funds that we can expend as planned. These funds will cover website and data collection costs.
      - b.  $\$29,100 + \$18,400 = \$47,500$  total funds needed.
    2. Tim met with City employees who determined how we reclassify the \$29k as neighborhood beautification activities. Total budget would look like the following:
      - a. Building signage - \$10,000
      - b. Trash containers - \$10,000
      - c. Beautification - \$10,000
      - d. Dog park - \$7,500
      - e. Public art - \$10,000
    3. In order to reallocate these funds as listed above we have to:
      - a. Provide public 21-day notification through agendas, social media, and the website.
      - b. Vote by the Board affirming this action.
      - c. Contact City staff identifying the actions of the Board.
6. Secretary's Report
- a. Nothing to report.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
- a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. Community garden has been more successful this year with help from organizations.
      - a. Fulton is helping with water, but we need a more permanent water source.

- a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to use \$300 in NLNA funds to cover Fulton's water costs for the garden and 200 feet of hose.**
  - b. New partner: MN Food Justice Collaborative. They have used the extra garden space to grow and donate their produce.
2. Outdoor Movie Night – 7pm on Saturday, August 22 at Target Field. Showing “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”. No popcorn due to COVID. It would cost \$385 for the movie rights. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to invest up to \$400 for an outdoor movie night.**
  - a. Will look at businesses for sponsorships to help defer costs.
3. National Night Out is rescheduled to Tuesday, September 15.
4. North Loop Food Truck Fair is cancelled for now.
5. Mobile Voting App has been chosen for the 2021 NLNA Board elections.
6. Service Saturdays has expanded to downtown Minneapolis. Volunteer events during Service Saturdays include trash cleanup, weeding/gardening, donation drives for local organizations, and voter registration. Service Saturdays take place monthly at various times between 9am and 3pm.
  - a. This month's Service Saturday donation drive will benefit Minneapolis Public Schools Pre-K – 5th grade.
  - b. Scott will create a Donation Drive sign for wayfinding.
7. In the process of creating a neighborhood forum event with Steve Fletcher and a member of MPD about public safety. More details to come.
- b. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Ron Sliwinski
  1. Bob Hinrichs resigned from the Committee. Three criteria considered in choosing a new candidate:
    - a. Has shown previous interest in NLNA, and is on the “wait list” to join the Committee.
    - b. Candidacy is supported by the neighborhood.
    - c. Grow the racial diversity of the Committee.
    - d. P+Z identified Marshall Hall as a prioritized candidate based on the above criteria. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Marshall Hall to the P+Z Committee for the duration of Bob's term to expire February 2022.**
  2. BKV Group presented the Duffey 2.0 Project to the Committee. The project consists of the redevelopment of two, historic Duffey buildings (300 Building and Falk Building), and the development of a new construction building and ramp at 246 7th Ave N. The project will produce 351 apartment rental units.
    - a. P+Z Committee approved the project contingent on:
      - a. Developer continues to work with United Properties.
      - b. Developer maintains effort to install public art on blank exterior walls.
      - c. Developer activates the corner that faces the Nordic Plaza. For example, install glass that lights up. Make that corridor

engaging to promote activity and improve pedestrian safety.

3. Woda Cooper Companies presented a new construction, affordable housing project at 188 ½ Glenwood Ave.
    - a. Proposed design was only four stories, and was not aesthetically fit for the neighborhood.
    - b. P+Z invited them to come back with a more refined project that better aligns with zoning, Minneapolis 2040 Plan, and neighborhood design.
  - c. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Mike Binkley
    1. Website visits hit 11,400 in June.
    2. Conversations continue with the web designer about edits and additions to the current website.
    3. Mike has prepared 12 signs to be installed on prominent historic buildings in the neighborhood. The signs designate the buildings as historic and also provide a historic summary of each building. 10 signs should be installed by the end of August.
  - d. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. 16 people attended the park clean-up at June's Service Saturday.
    2. Cristy Blake and volunteers are graciously watering 140 trees in the North Loop. Cristy has identified 70 dead trees in the neighborhood that the Minneapolis Forestry department will replace.
  - e. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
    1. Root District is partnering with JXTA arts to create several murals in the district that encourage pedestrian activity.
      - a. Three buildings along Border Ave have been identified as sites for the murals – Cintas, AOP, and Your Dog's Best Friend. Additional sites for future mural production have also been identified.
      - b. The project will be essential in bringing more vibrancy to the district leading up to the Southwest LRT opening.
      - c. Fundraising for the mural project will wrap up at the end of August. Mural production and promotion will take place late August – September.
        - a. MN Ballpark Authority and Great River Energy have committed \$7,500 each to the project. United Properties, Neighbors for North Loop Livability, and NLNA have expressed interest. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Ron, and unanimously approved by the Board to allocate \$3,000 to the Root District JXTA mural project.**
8. Unfinished business
    - a. No unfinished business.
  9. New Business
    - a. No new business.
  10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

**Adjourned at 9:20 P.M by Tim.**