



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes
October 28, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89702821661>
Call-in #: 312-626-6799 (mtg ID: 897 0282 1661)**

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

Neighbors in attendance: Sheila Delaney and Emily Bastian (representatives from the Indoor Villages), Patty Connelly, Cristy Blake, Susan Engel, and Dima Rozenblat.

1. October Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 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.**
3. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the September Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Sheila Delaney and Emily Bastian (VP at Avivo) present on the Indoor Villages project.
 1. The Indoor Villages will provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness.
 - a. Indoor Villages are individual tiny dwellings that are affordable, safe, and secure.
 - b. Located in under-utilized warehouse/big box space.
 2. Avivo will be the operator and service provider of the project.
 - a. Avivo increases well-being through recovery and career advancement while working to end homelessness.
 - a. Services and case management are available on-site with an emphasis on culturally-appropriate engagement.

- b. Avivo will support tenants with the end goal of moving them out of Indoor Villages into their own apartment of choice.
 - 3. Indoor Villages will be operating by the end of December.
 - 4. NLNA, Avivo, and the Indoor Villages team will work to create a document that outlines their partnership, and includes how to successfully interact and communicate with each other to support positive neighborhood relations with the Indoor Villages.
- 5. Finance Report – David Crary
 - a. NLNA is in a solid financial position. The City is still providing money to the association.
 - b. David is working to collect outstanding sponsorship payments.
- 6. Secretary's Report
 - a. Nothing to report.
- 7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
 - a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
 - 1. Neighborhood Movie Night - Jurassic Park will play on Halloween. Pre-packaged candy will be available for pick-up.
 - 2. Brainstorming how to handle a virtual voting process for the Annual Meeting.
 - a. Tim will reach out to Downtown Neighborhood Association about how they handled their Annual Meeting.
 - b. Scott is workshoping a presentation/video/social media campaign for the Annual Meeting that shows neighbors how to keep the North Loop clean, safe, and secure themselves, instead of relying solely on the City.
 - 3. Flu Shot Clinic at October Service Saturday was successful.
 - 4. November Service Saturday -- Trash pick-up at 9am. Dog park clean-up at 10am. Also will include an indoor donation drive for People Serving People.
 - 5. An additional trash pick-up event will be held on Saturday, October 31.
 - b. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Ron Sliwinski
 - 1. 701 N Washington Ave -- Fuzzy's Taco Shop. Restaurant specializing in to-go Mexican fare and margaritas. Applying for a liquor license. Liquor will only be provided in-house, not for pick-up.
 - a. **Motion is made by Tim, seconded by Mike, and unanimously approved by the Board to write a letter of support for Fuzzy's Taco Shop's liquor license.**
 - 2. Shelby Commons affordable housing development located at 188 ½ Ave Glenwood Ave (New Construction)
 - a. Needs variances for:
 - a. Height -- only a 4-story building.
 - b. Does not contain any commercial space.
 - c. 15 outdoor parking spaces will require a conditional use permit.
 - b. Project is aesthetically appropriate with an industrial exterior and a lot of glass for a transparent/commercial feel.
 - a. The site incorporates opportunities for public art.

- c. Project contains 46 units at 30-60% AMI, ~50 parking spaces, and both indoor and outdoor common areas.
 - d. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Jackson, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the affordable housing project Shelby Commons.**
 - 3. P+Z voted to have Tim, as president of the Board, contact the Federal Reserve about replacing their temporary fencing with higher quality permanent fencing. Tim will also inquire about their intention with the fence moving forward.
 - c. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Mike Binkley
 - 1. Volume of website visits slightly increased in September. Visits are declining in October as we get into colder months. This is normal activity. Visits are coming from Mike's stories and videos on social media.
 - 2. Website subscriber volume continues to increase.
 - 3. Seven more historical building plaques have been produced and will be installed shortly.
 - d. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler
 - 1. Local business activity is trending upward, which is a good sign.
 - 2. Crime and COVID on Black Friday is a concern.
 - 3. Currently, business owners will owe taxes on PPP forgiveness funds, as the IRS has not changed their policy yet. This won't be an issue until 2021.
 - e. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
 - 1. David has reached out to Friends of the Mississippi River and they will produce a complete plan on how to repurpose James Rice Park from an environmental point of view. They will fund part of the plan, but the North Loop will have to provide \$2,500. This will be a catalyst for getting other organizations to help with the park.
 - a. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to use \$2,500 of NLNA funds to have Friends of the Mississippi River produce an environmental plan for James Rice Park.**
 - f. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
 - 1. Mural project production is postponed until May due to weather.
 - 2. Farmers Market traffic picked up -- More vendors and shoppers started to show up the last few months, so the Market was able to finish the year strong. COVID had decreased Market participation over the summer.
 - 3. Southwest LRT construction has made a lot of progress. Scheduled to start service late summer/early fall 2021.
 - g. North Loop Dog Park – Mike Binkley
 - 1. Nothing to report.
8. Unfinished business
- a. Organics Recycling (Patty Connelly, Susan Engel, and Cristy Blake)
 - 1. Four potential dumping sites are located in the East North Loop: remote corner at the Landings; parking lot of Colonial Warehouse; north side of the Itasca building; off Washington Ave behind the Monte Carlo.
 - 2. Still exploring locations in West North Loop.

9. New Business

- a. No new business to report.

10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, following the P+Z Committee meeting.

- a. November will be Tim's last meeting. He will be resigning from the Board at the end of the year, as he is leaving the North Loop.

Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Tim, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:26 P.M.