

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**September 30, 2020**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86356442116**

**Call-in #: 312-626-6799 (mtg ID: 863 5644 2116)**

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

Neighbors in attendance: Representatives from Renaissance on the River, River Station, Tower Lofts, and The Landings.

1. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Tim.
2. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Mike, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the August Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
   1. Positive feedback on the Meet the Candidates event hosted by NLNA.
5. Finance Report – David Crary
   1. The City approved NLNA’s budget reallotments that were voted on at the August Board meeting.
   2. NLNA has $41,592.18 in the bank.
      1. NLNA is in a solid financial position, but it should be noted that the association will receive less money from the City moving forward due to citywide budget cuts.
6. Secretary’s Report
   1. Nothing to report.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
   1. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. There is potential for a Halloween event in the North Loop. COVID measures would be taken: come-and-go format, pre-packaged candy packs, etc. Searching for a location.
         1. Graze outdoor space?
      2. Food Trucks on First (an adjusted version of the annual Food Truck Fair) was successful.
      3. Working to create a list of actions for North Loop neighbors and businesses to take in order to maintain a safe and healthy community.
      4. Next Service Saturday is October 10. 9am neighborhood trash pick-up, 10am park clean-up.
         1. Voter Registration booth will be open 10am - 12pm - the last day to register is October 13. David will drop the registrations off at the Secretary of State on the 13th.
         2. Bri will connect with the North Loop health clinic to set up a flu shot drive.
         3. November will likely be the last month of Service Saturdays until post-winter.
      5. Create and/or promote a video on the NLNA website about how to register and vote. Include information about health safety while voting.
         1. There is an existing page on the website with links to vote and other election information.
   2. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Ron Sliwinski
      1. 27-story, mixed-use project is proposed at 17 N Washington Ave (just outside the boundary of the North Loop). 429 residential units and 4,800 square feet of ground floor commercial space. Includes a terrace and recreational green space, among other residential amenity spaces.
         1. **Motion is made by Ron, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the project.**
      2. North Loop Green is the green space portion of the proposed Hines development at 3rd Ave N. The 1-acre green space will be located underneath the highway. It will serve as a neighborhood park, and include communal gathering areas, a dog park, programmable event spaces, food and beverage options, bike and pedestrian connections to the Cedar Lake Trail, and more. Requested support from NLNA for a liquor license and general use of the space.
         1. **Motion is made by Ron, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for North Loop Green and their liquor license.**
   3. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Mike Binkley
      1. Website visits are dropping, and will continue to drop until society resumes as “normal”. We had 7,726 visits and 17 new subscribers in August.
      2. Launched the new website on September 20. New features include, but are not limited to: a more scrolling-friendly format; re-location of the menu bar to the top of the page; added footer with quick links; added donation button and volunteer form; and a more prominent “About” section that tells the history of the North Loop and its buildings.
      3. Eight historic building signs have been installed throughout the North Loop. Four more are in production.
      4. Hosting a prize giveaway on social media to engage residents with local businesses.
   4. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler
      1. Continuing to brainstorm, offer advice, and seek out collaboration with other local businesses about protecting stores during instances of high crime, like rioting.
         1. Ideas center around a neighborhood watch and alert system that depends on streamlined communications between businesses.
   5. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. James Rice Park
         1. David will meet with the nonprofit organization Friends of the Mississippi who will help get rid of the invasive species in the park.
         2. David will also meet with the superintendent of the park to address maintenance items.
         3. 28 volunteers showed up to August’s Service Saturday for the park clean-up. A large amount of mulch was spread in the play area within a short hour.
   6. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
      1. A total of $26,000 is committed to the mural project. On-site planning meeting with JXTA is on Monday. Proposed mural concepts will be presented to the Board.
      2. Hosting a poster-making initiative “Vote Ruthless” to encourage civic participation.
   7. North Loop Dog Park – Mike Binkley
      1. Dog park was out of poop bags for about a week. The maintenance team at Schaeffer-Richardson was notified and the bags were replenished.
8. Unfinished business
   1. Board Vacancy
      1. Ron Sliwinski is leaving the Board as he is moving to Fargo, ND.
      2. The Board now has two vacancies.
         1. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Ron, and unanimously approved by the Board to nominate Pedro as a Board member to serve the remainder of Ron’s term (one year).**
            1. Note: Pedro tied with Jenn Brewington at the 2020 Board elections.
         2. The remainder of Jenn’s term (through January 2021) will stay vacant until the 2021 Board elections.
9. New Business
   1. Organics in the North Loop
      1. Susan Engel, Nancy Gardner, and Patty Connelly are proposing a common drop-off site for organics recycling that would be emptied by the City once a week.
         1. Educational information (existing links and videos) about organics recycling should be posted on the North Loop website, so that the site doesn’t become contaminated.
         2. The 64-gallon organics recycling bin would have a combination lock. The combination would be given to consumers after they register online as users of the site.
         3. A site must be identified by the neighborhood and approved by the City. In determining a location, it is important to be aware that the site could get smelly.
10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020.

**Adjourned at 8:59 P.M.**