

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**January 20, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88266084387**

**Call-in #: 513-760-6983**

All 10 current Board members were in attendance: Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller, Francesco Parisi, Mike Binkley, Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz, Bri Sharkey-Smith, David Crary and Pedro Wolcott.

Neighbors in Attendance: Susan Engel, Cristy Blake, Mollie Scozzari, Andrew Morse, Patty Connelly, and Dima Rozenblat.

1. January Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Jackson, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Jackson, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the November Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
   1. Nothing to report.
5. Finance Report – David Crary
   1. There was ~$43,000 in the bank at the end of 2020. NLNA is in good shape, but the Board needs to look for another revenue stream given the City’s inability to provide its usual contributions to neighborhood associations.
6. Secretary’s Report
   1. Nothing to report.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
   1. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. Annual Meeting is next week, January 27.
         1. Scott ran through a demo of the webinar (via sli.do) with the Board. The webinar and its interactive features should run smoothly at the Annual Meeting.
            1. All Board members will be responsible for addressing guests’ questions in the webinar.
      2. Avivo Village has residents moved in, and more continue to move in. The Good Neighbor Agreement draft between Avivo and NLNA is finished. This document will continue to evolve as the relationship deepens over time.
         1. Avivo is hosting a community meeting with the North Loop on February 8. Details will be posted on the NLNA website.
      3. Service Saturdays will resume in March.
   2. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi
      1. P+Z Committee did not meet this month.
      2. Many investors believe in the North Loop despite COVID economic setbacks.
      3. 17 N Washington development is moving forward. Councilmember Fletcher has supported the project.
      4. Shelby Commons affordable housing development on Glenwood Ave obtained all the necessary funding and is moving forward.
      5. Duffey Paper redevelopment project is moving forward.
      6. Irina Brown bought the Industrial Lighting building. Plans are forthcoming.
      7. Federal Bank is reinforcing the temporary fencing and building permanent fencing that will meet the quality and aesthetic of the neighborhood.
   3. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Mike Binkley
      1. Visits to the website were over 11,000 in December 2020. Majority of visits continue to come from Mike’s stories on social media.
      2. Mike is not running for re-election, but will still serve as the NLNA media/content creator for the website.
   4. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler
      1. Second round of PPP funds (Paycheck Protection Program) are available.
   5. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. 3rd Ave Park (next to Schaeffer Richardson development) is almost finished. Irrigation system and sod is in place. There will be no sidewalk or trees. It is simply a green space.
      2. David continues to meet with Friends of the Mississippi and Metro Blooms to support the North Loop parks.
   6. Root District – Jackson Schwartz
      1. Jackson attended the public meeting for the Southwest LRT. Construction is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and subsequent change orders. Anticipated operation date is 2024 (changed from 2023).
      2. Jackson met with Farmers Market Board members about redevelopment in the area.
         1. Discussed evolution of the Farmers Market, and other revenue streams (arts & crafts, alcohol, etc.) that could be incorporated into the Market.
         2. Possibility for the Growers Association to own the site, instead of paying the City 20% to use the site.
         3. Jackson will approach North Loop businesses to sponsor the Farmers Market.
      3. NuLoop Partners met and discussed a number of items:
         1. Environmental and climate concerns.
         2. Professional sports organizations are convening with the Downtown Council to produce a cohesive messaging strategy around COVID-19. They want to make sure fans are aware they will not be able to attend sports in the massive crowds that they used to, even as vaccinations increase.
         3. Downtown Council is also convening around safety and messaging surrounding the George Floyd murder trials, which may spark more social unrest.
   7. Neighborhood Safety – Pedro Wolcott and Dana Swindler
      1. Pedro has communicated with Schaeffer Richardson about the illegal activity that is surrounding their building, namely shootings and drug dealing. He will request a follow-up meeting with Schaeffer Richardson to ask for accountability, and to request specific strategies that Schaeffer Richardson will implement to mitigate the criminal activity (more security, etc).
      2. Citizen App (costs $200/year) shows all criminal activity in your specified area.
      3. Reminder that we cannot rely solely on the police, and that buildings should contribute to neighborhood safety with their own security systems.
   8. North Loop Dog Park – Mike Binkley
      1. Nothing to report.
8. Unfinished business
   1. Organics Recycling Update - Cristy Blake, Patty Connelly, Sue Engel, Nora Hannon
      1. City has suspended approving any new community drop-off sites due to COVID. Approvals will be given in March at the earliest. In the meantime, the City recommends that we move forward with site planning and the educational components of organics recycling.
      2. Cedar St surface parking lot -- recycling containers will be located near 3rd St in the southwest corner.
         1. Still searching for a water source.
      3. Freehouse location is a potential, third drop-off site.
      4. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to seek City approvals for the Cedar St and Colonial Warehouse organics recycling drop-off sites.**
9. New Business
   1. No new business to report.
10. The next board meeting will be the Annual Board Meeting held on Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

**Motion is made by Pedro, seconded by Jackson, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 8:37 P.M.**