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**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**February 24, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86332303379>**

**Call-in #: 413-350-0709**

11 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller, Francesco Parisi, Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz, Bri Sharkey-Smith, David Crary, Pedro Wolcott, Zach Brunnert, Mollie Scozzari, and Dima Rozenblat.

Neighbors in Attendance: Councilmember Steve Fletcher, Mike Binkley, Andrew Morse, and Patty Connelly.

1. February Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the January Meeting minutes with the following change in bold:**
  - a. In the P+Z Committee report: "17 N Washington development is moving forward. Councilmember Fletcher ~~has approved~~ **supports** the project."
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Nothing to report.
5. Councilmember Steve Fletcher
  - a. In general, crime is down in the North Loop compared to previous years.
  - b. Speaking to the safety concerns surrounding Derek Chauvin's murder trial, MPD is more prepared to manage the protests peacefully and effectively now than they were last summer.
    1. A lot of planning has gone into building defense and capacity to mitigate opportunistic crimes like vandalism and theft. This includes barriers at key locations and standby troops.

2. Positive public presence and positive activism is important during the trial. Stay out and about!
  3. Rent relief and other resources have become available to those who are struggling with employment during COVID. Information will be widely disseminated in the near future.
  4. A public hearing for the Right to Recall ordinance will be held on March 4. This ordinance would protect the employment of hospitality workers in the City.
  5. City Council is brainstorming creative ideas for events that could bring people into downtown/North Loop to engage with local businesses. Perhaps a block party, Food Truck Fair, etc.
    - a. 2022 will be a critical year for small businesses, so any plans to help engage local business should be multi-year focused.
6. Election of NLNA Board Officers
- a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to nominate Diane Merrifield as president of the NLNA Board.**
  - b. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to nominate David Crary as Vice President.**
  - c. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to nominate Dima Rozenblat as Treasurer.**
  - d. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to nominate Zach Brunnert as Secretary.**
7. Finance Report – David Crary
- a. NLNA is in good financial shape.
  - b. There are some future financial opportunities with the City (Community Participation Program + other programs that are grants-based), but additional funding sources will be sought to provide financial security that is independent of the City.
8. Secretary's Report
- a. Nothing to report.
9. NLNA Priorities and Committees
- a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. Two additional Little Free Libraries have come available to the neighborhood. One will be installed at Avivo Village and the other location is TBD.
    2. In partnership with Red Cross, NLNA plans to host two blood drives each year in the North Loop.
    3. The next Avivo Village community meeting will be hosted by First Service Residential on March 15. The neighborhood is invited to attend.
    4. **Motion is made by Bri, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Good Neighbor Agreement between the North Loop neighborhood and Avivo Village.**
    5. April 22nd is Earth Day. The Saturday after Earth Day is historically a larger-scale, North Loop clean-up event day. This year, that date is April 24th.
    6. Candy Grab Event – Saturday, April 3rd. Will be held at an outside location with a COVID capacity limit of 250 people.

- a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to designate \$500 of NLNA funds to the Candy Grab event.**
7. Food Truck Fair – Sunday, June 13th. Hoping to hold the event underneath the bio-duct to prevent potential rain cancellation.
8. Using data from the Annual Board meeting, the Board will reach out to residents who expressed an interest in volunteerism and assign them to NLNA working committees.
9. Scott will look into hosting outdoor concerts this summer.
10. The Board will explore consistent partnership opportunities with the Twins.
- b. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi
  1. P+Z Committee did not meet in January or February.
  2. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint the following members to the P+Z Committee for the term 2021-2023.**
    - a. Alice Eichholz
    - b. Marshall Hall
    - c. Joe McErlane
    - d. David Miller
    - e. Francesco Parisi
    - f. Neil Reardon
    - g. Missy Rotterdam
    - h. Jo Vos
    - i. Mollie Scozzari
- c. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler, Zach Brunnert, Jackson Schwartz & Pedro Wolcott
  1. The Safety & Livability Committee is meeting independently to define their role in the neighborhood. Part of that role will be alerting and spreading information to residents and businessowners of any current safety concerns.
    - a. Add a Safety & Livability section to the NLNA website.
- d. Communications – Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller & Mollie Scozzari
  1. Website traffic is consistent with last year. Anticipating an increase as events pick back up in the summer.
  2. Mollie will be taking over social media engagement from Mike Binkley.
  3. E-newsletter went out a couple weeks ago, and the Mailchimp email list has been updated with data gathered from the Annual Meeting. In the near future, NLNA may need to pay for increased listserv capacity in Mailchimp.
- e. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
  1. Friends of the Mississippi are going to present a grant proposal to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization on behalf of NLNA to fund the removal of invasive species in James Rice Park. This will be about \$15,000.
    - a. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Francesco, and unanimously approved by the Board for the NLNA to apply for a Mississippi Watershed Management Organization grant via Friends of the Mississippi.**
    - b. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Francesco, and unanimously approved by the Board to use up to \$1,000 in**

**NLNA funds for park cleanup equipment (dependent on funding from MWMO).**

2. The Park Board is getting close to approving the 3rd St Schafer Richardson Park (within the next 180 days). This will be a small green space initially.
- f. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
  1. Hoping to install smaller gravel in April. Tim Bildsoe is going to reach out to the provider of the original gravel, which is too large and tough on dogs' paws.
    - a. A QR code/survey link will be posted at the dog park to get neighborhood feedback before investing more NLNA funds.
  2. It will cost roughly \$5,000 to cover the dog park in new gravel.
    - a. Perhaps invest \$X NLNA Funds and grassroots fundraise a matching \$amount from the neighborhood.
- g. Historic Preservation & Public Art – Francesco Parisi & Jackson Schwartz
  1. Looking for a mural location in the North Loop. NLNA has existing public art funds to be utilized.
  2. May/June timeline for commencement of Juxtaposition murals.
- h. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz
  1. Light-rail work will commence around April/May. David Davies will present to the Board about construction and its impact on the North Loop. Timeline has been extended to 2024.
  2. Border Ave connection will be created in the next couple years, which will ease flow around the Farmers Market.
    - a. Streets and sidewalks surrounding the new light-rail will be redeveloped and greatly improved. This will occur in conjunction with the Shelby Commons affordable housing development on the corner of Glenwood Ave.
  3. Working on economic development with the Farmers Market Board. One key opportunity identified is leveraging the off-market hours for program activation, such as crafting.
    - a. Planning a week-long harvest festival second half of September that includes arts, culture, and food.
      - a. Will fundraise for the event through NuLoop Partners.
      - b. Partner with the UMN and Humphrey School.
      - c. Intend to gather community feedback, big ideas, etc through this event to help form a vision for the future Root District.

**10. Old Business**

- a. Organics Recycling – Patty Connelly
  1. Two sites have been selected and approved by their respective property managers for organics drop-off: Loose-Wiles Building and Colonial Warehouse. The City will be investigating and hopefully approving the sites within the month.
  2. An educational plan has been developed to show people how to properly recycle organics, to avoid contamination of the drop-off sites. Educational materials will be disseminated on the North Loop website and at Service Saturday events.
  3. County grants up to \$3,000 are available for organics recycling bins and bags.

11. New Business

a. Service Saturday

1. March Service Saturday will be held on March 13th. There will be a donation drive for Avivo Village. Avivo provided Bri with a specific list of items needed. Still need to designate a donation drop-off location.

b. March Board Planning Session

1. Diane will send out an email to the Board to schedule the March Planning Session.

12. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

**Motion is made by Dana, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:20 P.M.**