

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**March 31, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84017878242**

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Councilmember Steve Fletcher, Patty Connelly, Jessica LeGare, Cristy Blake, and Hayden Selingo.

1. March Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Mollie, 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 Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the February Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
	1. Nothing to report.
5. Approval of New Board Member
	1. Zachary Brunnert has stepped off the Board and will be replaced by Jo Hamburge. Jo had the next highest number of votes at the Annual Board Meeting.
		1. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Jo Hamburge to the NLNA Board.**
6. Councilmember Steve Fletcher
	1. MNDot is going to add more pedestrian safety features at the Intersection of 394 and Washington Ave. This could potentially include getting rid of the right turn lane onto Washington Ave. More details will be announced in April.
	2. Public Works re-striping program will be utilized in the North Loop to mark bike lanes, crosswalks, and other pedestrian right-of-ways.
	3. Public Works will reconfigure the bike lane on 2nd St to create a two-lane bike lane on the north side of the street where there are no intersections, making it safer for cyclists.
	4. The COVID vaccine is now available to all Minnesotans age 16+.
	5. Twins games are starting back up with a limited number of fans.
	6. Newly drafted ordinance: Tenant Opportunity to Purchase. If a building sells, tenants have the cooperative ability to buy the building. This is not limited to affordable buildings, though more technical support is provided for tenants living in affordable housing.
	7. Newly drafted ordinance: Parking minimum requirements will be changing. More detailed traffic analysis will be required for new developments to determine parking needs and space for curbside delivery, Uber, Bite Squad, and other services that affect traffic patterns.
7. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
	1. NLNA is in a good financial position.
	2. 990 tax document is substantially complete.
8. NLNA Priorities and Committees
	1. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
		1. Candy Grab event is on Saturday, April 3 at Target Field Station. Attendance is estimated to be around 250 people. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up around 9am.
		2. Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 24. Bags, gloves, and other supplies will be available for distribution.
		3. Food Truck Fair will be held in June. Hoping to be located under the viaduct for protection on a rainy day, or in the new North Loop park.
		4. Next Service Saturday is April 10. Trash pickup at 9am, buckthorn bagging and other park cleanup at 10am.
		5. May’s Service Saturday will include a book drive, blood drive, and organics recycling education stations.
		6. Monday, April 26 is the next Avivo meeting open to the public.
		7. Avivo would like to install the Little Free Library on their property.
	2. P+Z Committee – Francesco Parisi
		1. 129 N 2nd St development did not show up to present to the Committee.
		2. 324 N 6th Ave, First Draft Taproom would like to update their liquor license to include the sale of hard liquor.
			1. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the updated liquor license of First Draft Taproom.**
		3. A new joint venture between Black Sheep and Rapids Brewing Company - called StormKing Brewpub and BBQ - will be located at 618 N 5th St. They are applying for a liquor license. Brews will be served on site, but not made on site.
			1. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Dima, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for StormKing Brewpub and BBQ’s liquor license.**
		4. The historic building located at 724 N 1st St currently houses office space, but will be converted to 40 apartment units plus retail space. Historic façade would be preserved.
			1. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Dima, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the converted use of the building.**
		5. 121 N 1st St, Commutator Foundry will no longer be developed into a boutique hotel due to COVID impacts on hotel financing. It will now be developed into a 6-story, multi-family apartment building with 73 units and first floor retail.
			1. Units facing east will have balconies extruding four feet, and units facing north and south will have balconies extruding two feet.
			2. On the architectural plans shown to the P+Z Committee, the historic chimney on the Commutator Foundry building is shown as preserved. However, on their architectural plans submitted to the City, the historic chimney is not shown.
			3. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the Commutator Foundry development with the condition that the historic chimney is preserved.**

6. P+Z Committee would like for their letters of support and other

 documentation to be uploaded to the NLNA website along with the

 meeting minutes.

* 1. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz & Pedro Wolcott
		1. Focused on providing public safety updates to the neighborhood surrounding Derek Chauvin’s trial. So far, demonstrations have remained peaceful.
	2. Communications – Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller & Mollie Scozzari
		1. Volume of website visits in February continued at its slower pace (11,107 visits).
		2. Most popular pages include Mike’s stories and the directory.
		3. Facebook and Mill City Times lead the way for referral sites with 884 and 350 respectively.
	3. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
		1. There is a new 25,000 sq feet park located on 3rd St that is currently all concrete. There is a desire to create an intentional green space in the park. Ideas are welcomed.
		2. Property owners in the North Loop need to maintain their boulevard grass and plantings.
			1. It is imperative that buildings are watering their greenery, including trees.
				1. Dead trees and stumps will be replaced by newly planted trees this spring.
				2. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to use $200 of NLNA funds to produce No Pee Zone stickers that will help protect grass and trees in the neighborhood.**
			2. Perhaps the Board could arrange a mowing service that the property owners contribute to monetarily.
	4. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
		1. Planning to start a neighborhood fundraiser (like a GoFundMe) to raise funds for new gravel and other maintenance in the dog park.
	5. Historic Preservation & Public Art – Francesco Parisi & Jackson Schwartz
		1. Potential site for commissioned public art located at Monte Carlo.
		2. Once developed, Shelby Commons will be another site for public art installation.
		3. Work on the Juxtaposition murals will commence in May.
	6. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz
		1. The Root District is participating in the International Geodesign Collaboration which is a partnership through the UN that aims to improve global infrastructure through sustainable systems. A component of the conference is a brainstorming session that leads to identified priorities and outcomes for participants and their geographic focus.
			1. For the Root District, there will be an emphasis on urban agriculture and equity building, whether that’s in housing or jobs incubation.
		2. The Root District is also working with the UMN Humphrey School on urban planning, mapping, and ideation of the neighborhood with a focus on food systems and the Farmers Market. Looking at how to bring amenities into the community.
		3. Border Ave extension will create substantial ease of access to Root District buildings and businesses.
1. Old Business
	1. Organics Recycling – Patty Connelly
		1. Locations are 1) behind Colonial Warehouse and 2) off 7th Avenue, between Washington Ave and 3rd Street (SE corner, behind Freehouse) - Cedar Duffey property
		2. Costs include the following: $18/mo per container. $15 per cart fee for contaminated container. Any expense for hauling away large items not accepted.
		3. Drafted NLNA agreement with Colonial Warehouse is for 1-year and with Cedar Duffey 6-months (due to potential development at that site). As the city requires payment be made monthly through property owners' City utility accounts, we are proposing that we prepay Colonial Warehouse and Cedar Duffey for the $18/mo cost ($216 Colonial Warehouse and $108 Cedar Duffey).
			1. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to enter into agreements with Colonial Warehouse and Cedar Duffey, and to prepay both locations for the organics recycling pick-up fees.**
		4. Program participants will be required to register for access to the containers and they will initially be locked during the summer months in order to deter contamination.
		5. We are required to provide education for potential program participants and are planning the following:
			1. Information tables set up on May Service Saturday to distribute information (James Rice Park playground and one other location TBD more on the West side of the neighborhood)
			2. Information will be posted on the website - under new Environment tab on Resources page
			3. Newsletter feature will provide program information and links
		6. Scott has designed a NL sign to be posted on the containers along with the city signage - the signs will need to be printed in such a manner as they can be attached to the containers.
		7. The city expects the containers to be cleaned as needed (by volunteers).
		8. The team is pursuing a grant that would fund the purchase of household countertop compost containers and bags to be given to program participants.
2. New Business
	1. TractorWorks River Connection Park - Jessica LeGare and Hayden Selingo
		1. The River Connection Park will be located south of TractorWorks and behind Else Warehouse.
		2. The City has conceptual plans to create a greenway that leads to the river, which will incorporate the TractorWorks River Connection Park. The greenway would provide full pedestrian access to the river.
		3. TractorWorks has started designing concepts for the Park, and a public easement will be granted.
		4. TractorWorks is focused on fundraising efforts so they can break ground as soon as possible. $1.7 million has been raised so far from the City Park Board, TractorWorks, and local businesses. $740,000 is still needed.
			1. They have not contacted developers yet.
			2. Construction would take roughly 6 months from start to completion.
3. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

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