



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes**

**April 28, 2021
7:00 P.M.**

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83221125603>

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

Others in Attendance: Councilmember Steve Fletcher; 3rd Ward Council Candidate Merv Moorhead; MNDOT representatives, Aaron Tag, Victor Vasa and Jasna Hadzic-Stanek; Mpls Public Works Allan Klugman and neighbor/volunteer Cristy Blake.

1. April Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Dana, seconded by Francesco, 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 March Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Approval of Jo Hamburge as NLNA Secretary
 - a. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Jo Hamburge as Secretary of the NLNA Board.**
5. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Councilmember Steve Fletcher
 1. Solar training program is underway in North Minneapolis. The objective of this program is to encourage solar panel installation.
 2. Archive Apartments at 110 N 1st St is completed and open for leasing.
 3. Business in the North Loop is starting to open back up as COVID restrictions loosen and Twins games resume with fans.
 4. City is working with the State and County to provide rent relief to individuals who have fallen behind in their rent payments during COVID.
 5. DFL Caucus registration ends on Friday. Steve is running for re-election.

6. In November, residents will have the option to vote for City authorization of rent control, which will give the City the ability to declare rent limits in an effort to keep rents affordable.
 - b. Merv Moorhead, Ward 3 City Council Candidate
 1. Merv is native to Pittsburgh but has lived in Minnesota for 20 years, and has lived in Minneapolis for the last 6 years.
 2. Merv works in Sales at General Mills, which involves finance and logistics.
 3. His issues of interest include public safety, the reform of MPD, economic recovery for local businessowners, and racial equity particularly in terms of income equality and homeownership.
6. Neighborhood Updates
- a. 394/Washington Ave Intersection - Aaron Tag, West Area Engineer, MNDOT
 1. Problems with the intersection:
 - a. Pedestrian safety - vehicles not yielding to pedestrians in the free right from I-394; long crossing distances across the intersection.
 - b. Conflicts with left turning vehicles from I-394 - City added a left turn signal in 2019.
 2. Proposed design:
 - a. Eliminates the free right.
 - b. Maintains the left turn lane from I-394.
 - c. Reduces the crossing distance across all legs of the intersection.
 - a. Curb extensions added on three corners of the intersection: outside of J.D. Hoyt's, Hewing Hotel, and Edina Realty.
 3. Anticipated construction start in 2023.
 - b. TractorWorks Project - Jo Hamburg and David Crary
 1. Messaging to businesses: Minneapolis Park Board and easement.
 2. Messaging to the public: Unlock the last piece to the river.
 3. Currently identifying and creating materials for public phase, including public recognition levels.
 4. Thinking through materials for business solicitation. Jessica and David have already started to approach local buildings and businesses for contributions.
 5. Reviewing website/landing page, contribution levels, and banking details.
 6. Discussion points:
 - a. Adjust the site language on contributions to include something like "all funds go toward continued beautification of the North Loop" to address the possibility of a no-go on the park.
 - b. Consider a symbolic leadership contribution from the NLNA Board.
 - c. Mollie will work with the team on social media content and strategy/approach.
7. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
- a. Finances remain healthy with ~\$36k of unrestricted funds.
 - b. 990 form will be voted on for approval at the May Board meeting. An extension will be filed.

8. NLNA Priorities and Committees

a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith

1. Avivo Village:

- a. 74 residents are currently moved in, but there will be 96 moved in a couple weeks. They move in residents every other week.
 - a. Avivo has successfully housed (moved into their own, permanent housing) 18 residents so far.
 - b. Avivo is looking for volunteers to lead yoga and Zumba classes, give haircuts, teach art classes, and give massages.
 - c. Avivo is planning to host a community event in July that includes food trucks and lawn games.
2. Service Saturday on May 8 will include a blood drive, organized trash pick-up, and an educational table for organics recycling.
3. Six pedestrian crossing signs have been created and put out.
 - a. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to produce five more pedestrian crossing signs for ~\$1,500.**
4. 100 No-Pee Zone stickers have been created, and Scott has drafted guidelines of where to place them.
5. Food Truck Fair will happen either June 13 or July 11.
6. National Night Out is August 3. Twins are willing to host again.
7. Planning to host a dog park event this summer. Details TBD.
8. Potentially will host a Farmers Market event in the fall.

b. P&Z Committee – Francesco Parisi

1. P&Z Committee did not meet in April.
2. The Industrial Lighting Supply Building (200 N 2nd St) was bought by Irina Brown and her husband. Their redevelopment plans are currently going through HPC approval. It will be developed into commercial and residential use, with a luxury penthouse.

c. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz & Pedro Wolcott

1. No issues with public safety surrounding the Derek Chauvin trials.
2. Suspicious activity surrounding Schaeffer Richardson building has dissipated with collaboration and increased security.
3. Renee Allen recommended that the Board write a letter for increased pedestrian lighting, and to switch two-hour parking to meters. Francesco will identify P+Z member willing to draft a letter for Board to approval.
4. The Mpls Downtown Improvement District (DID) has potential to expand into the North Loop. There could be public safety benefits to joining the DID, but further discussion is needed before the neighborhood makes that decision.

d. Communications – Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller & Mollie Scozzari

1. Monthly newsletter will include information about the organics recycling launch, the blood drive, and other Service Saturday items; Avivo call for volunteers, and vaccine resources.
2. There were 15,000 website visits in March, which is more than our peak in August 2019. Facebook is #1 source of site referrals.

e. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler

1. North Loop Business Crawl will start up again this year. This event has occurred twice a year for the last seven years. It is held on a Saturday, and offers discounts to shoppers at local retail.

2. Employee Retention Credit is a new benefit for businesses that have been hurt by COVID.
3. Additionally, small businesses can now be reimbursed for time they had to take off of work due to COVID illness or vaccination.
- f. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
 1. Planning to partner with League of Women Voters on a virtual event that covers common voting questions and various charter amendments that will be up for vote in November.
- g. Parks & Beautification – David Crary, Bri Sharkey-Smith and Cristy Blake
 1. David is working with the City forestry department on creating an orchard in the 3rd St park. They first need to assess feasibility with sunlight and other logistics.
 2. Working to obtain additional trash cans for the neighborhood.
 3. New trees are currently being planted in the neighborhood. New tree-keeping software is helpful in determining watering schedules.
 - a. Cristy will be recruiting volunteers to help with watering.
 4. Minnesota Master Naturalists is going to add the James Rice Park invasive species removal as an “approved” volunteer activity for their membership.
- h. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
 1. Pedro has bought new hardware for the dog park fence.
 2. Planning a dog park event to raise park improvement funds, including the replacement of the gravel with smaller rock.
- i. Historic Preservation & Public Art – Francesco Parisi & Jackson Schwartz
 1. John Rimarcik (owner of Monte Carlo) has identified six or seven walls as potential sites for public art murals.
- j. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz
 1. Juxtaposition murals will commence either the weekend of May 8 or May 15.
 2. Root District is participating in the International GeoDesign Conference (co-spearheaded by the Humphrey School), to influence and create more livability and a better public realm as the Root District attracts new development.
9. Old Business
 - a. Organics Recycling Update
 1. Organics recycling will officially launch May 8.
 2. Residents who sign up for organics recycling will get a free beer at the Brewing a Better Environment event.
10. New Business
 - a. No new business to report.

11. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

Motion is made by Bri, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:28 P.M.