



---

**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
Board Meeting Notes**

**June 30, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Colonial Warehouse Common Room, 1st Floor  
212 3rd Ave N**

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

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Michael Rainville, Hamoudi Sabri, Mike Binkley, Andrew Morse, and Cristy Blake.

1. June Board Meeting called to order at 7:06 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Jo, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the May Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Councilmember Steve Fletcher not present.
5. Neighborhood Updates
  - a. Michael Rainville - 3rd Ward City Council Candidate
    1. Born in Northeast, Minneapolis. Worked for the Minneapolis Convention Visitors Association for 35 years. Currently serves on Chief Arradondo's Citizens Advisory Committee. Wants to reform and rebuild the police department; address inequities faced by BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities; address the lack of affordable housing; and respond to all constituent inquiries within 24 hours.
  - b. Hamoudi Sabri - Dog Park Proposal
    1. Presented to NLNA Board in May 2019 for the same dog park. Does not want to go through Planning and Zoning for approvals. He intends to financially construct the park on his own but wants volunteer help from

the neighborhood for park maintenance and clean-up. Hamoudi also wants the NLNA Board to push communications out about the dog park.

- a. Phase 1 of the project is to fence in the dog park with existing shipping containers. This does not require a building permit.
2. *NLNA Board does not need to take action on this project at this time, given that Phase 1 does not require any approvals. The Board provided a Letter of Support for the project at the 2019 meeting, requesting that visibility into the park not be blocked by the shipping container perimeter.*

6. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat

- a. NLNA is in good shape with roughly \$33,500 in the bank.
- b. Need to file an amendment to the Minneapolis Community Participation Program (CPP) funds contract to receive money for the second half of 2021. This contract is in addition to funds received from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. City funds to NLNA will total approximately \$90k in 2021. Some of this money can roll over into 2022.
  1. NLNA Board needs to ensure that these funds are spent.
  2. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to allocate up to \$7,000 of City funds to water the approx. 90 trees in the neighborhood.**

7. NLNA Priorities and Committees

- a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
  1. North Loop Food Truck Fair is on July 11 from 1-7pm in the new North Loop park located at 751 N 3rd St. Sponsors have been secured. Estimating around 5,000 attendees.
  2. National Night Out is August 3rd.
  3. Avivo has moved 20 people into permanent housing. Currently serving six pregnant women and getting them connected to neonatal care. A Little Free Library will be installed at Avivo in the next couple weeks.
  4. Additional No Pee Zone stickers have been created. There needs to be more clarity about exactly which areas are “no pee zones”, as many residents are confused and concerned about where their dogs are allowed to pee.
- b. P&Z Committee
  1. P+Z Committee did not meet in June.
- c. Safety & Livability – Pedro Wolcott
  1. Pedro met with Chief Arradondo on Wednesday, June 23 about police accountability.
    - a. Chief is trying to alter the process that allows officers to return to the police force after being fired for bad behavior on the job.
    - b. The background checks for recruiting and hiring are becoming more intensive and now also include evaluations of personality.
    - c. Chief is trying to work more directly with businesses and the community to create a wider safety strategy that involves task forces for broader public health issues, such as mental health.
  2. Scott noted that pedestrian signs are getting beaten down on Washington Ave by large service trucks.
- d. Communications – Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller & Mollie Scozzari
  1. Nearly 14,000 site visits in May.

2. Social media isn't reaching enough volunteers in the neighborhood.  
**Motion is made by Mollie, seconded by Jo, and unanimously approved by the Board to allocate \$500 to boost social media posts.**
  3. Next newsletter will include Target Field Station movie nights, sponsorship opportunities for new trash receptacles in the neighborhood, July Service Saturday, and a call for trash/buckthorn cleanup volunteers.
  - e. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. David and Bri met with the DMA and planned three forums on the charter amendment, public safety amendment, and strong mayor amendment. Two forums will be held via Zoom and one will be held in person in late July/early August. Bri will plan additional forums/panels to be hosted before early voting begins in September.
  - f. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
    1. David met with the Parks staff to establish a working relationship for James Rice Park and the future/new North Loop Park at 751 N 3rd St.
    2. Jersey barriers have finally been removed on Washington Ave.
    3. Some trees by the river have been damaged from storms. City has removed only a couple of trees so far, but more are likely to be removed in the future.
    4. Friends of the Mississippi grant will be determined on July 13. Total requested amount is \$18,000.
    5. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board for David to initiate and Chair a NLNA Parks Committee.**
  - g. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
    1. Dog Park Party is set for Saturday, August 28. Goal is to raise \$5,000 for the park to replace the gravel, install some benches, remove the pergola, and make other improvements to the park. \$1,000 has been raised from businesses already.
      - a. Neighborhood businesses will have the opportunity to set up a booth at the party.
      - b. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to allocate \$500 to design and print a North Loop Dog Park banner.**
8. Old Business
- a. TractorWorks River Connection Project Update - Jo Hamburge & David Crary
    1. A social media plan and marketing collateral has been created for the project, including coasters and postcards.
  - b. Organics in the North Loop Project Update - Cristy Blake
    1. 134 volunteers are signed up for organics recycling. NLNA will soon have to set up additional recycling bin(s).
9. New Business
- a. zAmya Theater Opportunity - Pedro Wolcott & Diane Merrifield
    1. Actors of zAmya Theater is comprised of current and formerly homeless individuals.

2. NLNA Board has the opportunity to co-apply with zAmya on a grant that requires collaboration between a nonprofit and a neighborhood organization.
  - a. The grant will support zAmya's work in creating a video montage of their previous theater performances that will be played at Target Field. They plan to host an event where they play the video followed by a Meet & Greet session with the actors of zAmya.
  - b. Project plans will likely involve Avivo as well.

10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 28, 2021.

**Motion is made by Mollie, seconded by Scott, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:17 PM**