

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**May 26, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Colonial Warehouse Common Room, 1st Floor**

**212 3rd Ave N**

**Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84369045849**

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Kristian Zimmerman and Alebel Mehari with Mpls Public Works, and Jane Pattinson

1. May Board Meeting called to order at 7:14 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Dana, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the April Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
   1. Councilmember Steve Fletcher not present.
   2. City of Minneapolis Public Works - Kristian Zimmerman and Alebel Mehari
      1. In 2020 the Public Works Department resurfaced (mill and overlay) 8th Ave N from 2nd St to 1st St N and 1st St N from 8th Ave to the bridge over the Cedar Lake Trail.
         1. In 2021, 1st St N will be resurfaced from the bridge to Hennepin Ave.
         2. Public Works had to phase this across two years due to new developments that were tearing up the roads, curbs, utilities, and other infrastructure during the construction process.
         3. The permanent striping plan will be installed on the corridor, including bike lanes.
         4. Midblock crossing will be constructed at NoLo Flats.
      2. Opportunity to improve traffic safety and mobility for all modes along the corridor while bringing 1st and 8th in line with City policies and goals.
         1. Project Goals: Improve safety and predictability for all people, regardless of travel mode; Maintain existing on-street parking due to high demand; Redistribute space to balance needs of all users; Maintain access and mobility for residents and businesses; Support active transportation options.
      3. Recent pedestrian improvements along the corridor:
         1. 8th Ave - 2nd St, rectangular rapid flashing beacon curb extensions
         2. 1st St - 8th Ave, ADA ramps
         3. 1st St - 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st Avenues, curb extensions and ADA ramps
      4. Opportunities in the corridor:
         1. There is adequate space to reduce vehicle travel lane width to 10.5’ while maintaining parking and including standard bike lanes.
         2. The 1st St N corridor between 4th and 8th Avenues, is a super block with adequate space to implement a midblock crossing.
            1. Benefits of adding a midblock crossing: provides a safe pedestrian crossing, encourages safer travel speeds.
      5. Timeline: Implement in Fall 2021
      6. Discussion concerning pedestrian safety throughout the neighborhood, especially in Washington and 2nd Ave corridors
      7. Additional crosswalk requests can be made through 311 or Councilmember Fletcher.
      8. Additional questions about the project can be routed to:
         1. Kristian Zimmerman, Associate Transportation Planner
            1. kristian.zimmerman@minneapolismmn.gov
            2. 612-503-7921
5. Neighborhood Updates
   1. TractorWorks River Connection - Jo Hamburge & David Crary
      1. The team is actively raising funds for the project. They plan to host a fundraising event at a brewery.
         1. Working to get support from developers.
         2. Need to figure out matching funds strategy.
         3. Need to figure out communications around raising funds in the event that the project doesn’t move forward.
            1. Ex: Vague language “Donations will be used to support the North Loop”.
         4. Need to set up separate bank account for donations to flow to.
   2. Organics in the North Loop
      1. There are 98 individuals signed up to utilize organics recycling. NLNA may have to expand the number of containers depending on how many people sign up.
      2. Colonial Warehouse and Schafer Richardson need to bill NLNA in advance for the containers.
6. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
   1. Finances remain healthy with ~$36k of unrestricted funds.
   2. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Francesco, and unanimously approved by the Board to submit the NLNA 990 form as prepared by Dima.**
   3. Need to invoice companies with banner ads on the NLNA website.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
   1. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. Food Truck Fair is Sunday, July 11 in the location of the new North Loop Park - 751 N 3rd St. Still need sponsors and non-food vendors. Budget for the event is $2,450. Goal is for NLNA to contribute between $500 and $1,000 after sponsorships.
         1. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to use NLNA funds as necessary to cover any shortfall of sponsorships.**
      2. National Night Out will be at Target Field Station on August 3. There is not a Twins game that night. Still looking for sponsorships.
         1. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide $500 in NLNA funds for National Night Out.**
      3. Dog Park Party is tentatively July 21. Details TBD.
      4. **Motion is made by Diane, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to have NLNA host two movie nights this summer.**
      5. The neighborhood needs an additional 250 No Pee Zone and We Are Open stickers.
         1. Perhaps include language with the No Pee Zone stickers or on the website that explains that dog pee is killing the trees.
      6. Pedestrian safety signs will be assembled and distributed by the end of May. Some signs have been hit by cars multiple times already. Perhaps Councilmember Fletcher can get cameras facing the crossings so cars can be recorded.
      7. Next Service Saturday is June 12.
   2. P&Z Committee – Francesco Parisi
      1. Committee voted to support the Iron Store historic preservation project located at 200 N 2nd St where Industrial Lighting used to occupy. The building will be mixed-use with commercial and 13 residential apartment rentals. The top floor will be a penthouse for one of the investors.
         1. Two changes will go to HPC:
            1. Restore the storefront windows that were closed off with additional brick decades after the building was originally built.
            2. Add 1,400 sq ft rooftop structure that is minimally visible from the street.
         2. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support for the Iron Store project.**
      2. Committee voted to support the developers who want to light the Washington Ave bridge, and to encourage NLNA Board involvement in the project. Francesco will get in touch with the developers and connect them with Councilmember Fletcher. **Motion is made by Francesco, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to support and connect with the developers who want to install lighting on the Washington Ave bridge.**
   3. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz & Pedro Wolcott
      1. Crime has decreased since the Chauvin trial ended, and since Twins games have started back up.
      2. Residents and guests of the North Loop are experiencing issues with unmetered street parking being taken over by construction workers and others who park for many hours at a time.
      3. Neighbors have seen an increase in the number of homeless individuals sleeping in residential lobbies. Signage has been put up in a number of places that direct homeless individuals to resources where they can receive support and shelter.
      4. Businesses are starting to entertain the idea of hiring their own 24-hour security.
   4. Communications – Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller & Mollie Scozzari
      1. Nearly 14,000 site visits in April.
      2. Facebook continues to be the #1 referral source, followed by Mill City Times.
      3. NLNA is hitting the contact limit in Mailchimp, and Mailchimp does not allow you to delete contacts who have unsubscribed.
         1. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Diane, and unanimously approved by the Board to pay an additional $10/month to increase contact capacity in Mailchimp to 5,000.**
      4. Next newsletter will go out June 3 and will highlight the TractorWorks River Connection project and June 12 Service Saturday.
         1. Promote need for volunteers to mulch on Service Saturday.
   5. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. Possible collaboration with the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association on a candidate forum.
   6. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. Cristy Blake and other volunteers have watered all the trees in the neighborhood. There are 10 volunteers who wish to be gardeners for the neighborhood with flowers and other plantings.
      2. Park Board will talk with the North Loop about 3rd St Park plans. Potential for an apple orchard to be planted in that park. Also going to meet with Park Board to talk about improving James Rice Park.
      3. Grant via Friends of the Mississippi has been submitted to remove the invasive species in James Rice Park.
      4. $15k is earmarked to buy public garbage cans for the neighborhood. Buildings where garbage cans are placed will have to pay for trash collection by the City.
         1. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to purchase garbage cans with NLNA funds plus a $10,000 donation.**
   7. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
      1. Dog Park was spruced up at the May Service Saturday. Volunteers helped paint the fence and shovel the rocks.
      2. Received a $500 donation from 801 Washington Lofts to help replace the gravel in the park.
         1. A GoFundMe will be launched at the Dog Park party to raise the rest of the funds needed to replace the gravel.
   8. Historic Preservation & Public Art – Francesco Parisi & Jackson Schwartz
      1. Still searching for a mural project building.
   9. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz
      1. Farmers Market is much busier this year than in 2020.
      2. Construction is continuing on the light-rail.
8. Old Business
   1. Nothing to discuss.
9. New Business
   1. Stone Arch Arts Festival - June 19th/20th
      1. Due to COVID and various construction obstructions, the festival will span the riverfront area on W River Parkway from Portland Ave to N 4th Ave.
      2. Businesses can rent a booth at the festival for $300. Booths must be staffed the entire weekend. NLNA will advertise this opportunity to neighborhood businesses.
10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

**Motion is made by Dana, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:38 P.M.**