



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes**

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

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

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

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Councilmember Steve Fletcher.

1. July Board Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Jo, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the June Meeting minutes with the following change:**
 - a. Remove item 6b. It has been confirmed that NLNA does need to open a separate bank account for donations.
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Councilmember Steve Fletcher
 1. Behavioral Health Crisis Response pilot program is rolling out in August. With this program, the 911 response for individuals experiencing mental health crises will be handled by mental health professionals.
 - a. The company Canopy Mental Health will be executing this program. They are BIPOC-led and culturally competent.
 - b. Three Canopy teams will be on-call at all times. Each team consists of two mental health professionals.
 - c. Canopy teams will drive marked vans.
 - d. At the beginning of the program, cops and Canopy will co-respond to the scene depending on the crisis. This response structure will be re-evaluated as needed according to program data.

- a. Canopy will make recommendations to MPD in situations where they co-respond.
 2. A crosswalk is going in at 1st St and 4th Ave, as well as a mid-block crossing on 1st Ave between 4th Ave and 8th Ave.
 - a. Steve will encourage Irene Fernando, the North Loop's County Commissioner, to attend a NLNA meeting and discuss other pedestrian safety issues pertaining to County streets, most especially Washington Ave between 7th and 10th Avenues.
 3. Route 3 bus is getting renamed to the Washington Ave bus. The bus will go straight up and down Washington Ave and include stops in the North Loop, Mill City District, UMN Campus, and to the State Fairgrounds. It is a high frequency route.
 4. City is looking at making some emergency ordinances that were prescribed during the pandemic permanent. These ordinances include those that helped local businesses and restaurants stay afloat, such as permitting for outdoor dining.
5. Neighborhood Updates
- a. No neighborhood updates.
6. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
- a. NLNA has \$35,236 in checking.
 - b. Dima filed the amendment to the CPP funds contract between NLNA and the City. The amendment will provide funds for the dog park and the TractorWorks River Connection project.
7. Secretary Report – Jo Hamburge
- a. Bylaws
 1. The bylaws have not had a meaningful overhaul for decades. Language pertaining to membership, Committees, and the Annual Meeting needs to change.
 - a. RE: Annual Meeting, the voting process inadvertently penalizes businesses in the North Loop.
 - b. Advertising
 1. NLNA is legally able to advertise. Jo and Mollie will more intentionally discuss the role of social media and advertising for NLNA.
 - c. Shared File Services
 1. Jo will create a private Sharepoint site for Board members to track working documents and historical documents produced by the Board.
8. NLNA Priorities and Committees
- a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
 1. Food Truck Fair was successful - over 6,000 people in attendance.
 - a. The event cost approximately \$3,333.
 - b. A portion of Modist's beer sales during the Fair will return to NLNA. They sold over 10,000 beers during the event.
 - c. There were many challenges with the City in producing the event and obtaining permits.
 2. Tuesday, August 3 is National Night Out. Twins, Vikings, and Lynx mascots will be there giving away tickets and other merchandise.
 - b. P&Z Committee – Francesco Parisi

1. P+Z Committee did not meet in July.
2. Developer attendance at P+Z meetings has drastically declined in the last couple of years. Some projects in the North Loop have been presenting to P+Z after receiving approval from HPC, or after starting construction, or not at all. P+Z Committee members have been writing letters to the City requesting that they be informed of projects going through the approval process. The only response from the City has been that they “cannot require developers to present to the NLNA”.
 - a. NLNA and P+Z Committee needs to further explore whether this is due to a process change at the City or not.
 - b. Perhaps put an article in the NLNA newsletter encouraging residents to write letters to the City about the approval process, and to become more involved in the support of new developments.
 - c. Perhaps use social media and/or petitions as a way to influence the support of new developments in the neighborhood.
 - d. While the large neighborhood developers do come to P+Z to present their projects, and get feedback and letters of support, other, some smaller developers often do not. This will require additional consideration as to how NLNA can assure that P+Z has an opportunity to review proposed neighborhood projects prior to their approval by the city.
- c. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler, Jackson Schwartz, & Pedro Wolcott
 1. Safety of ABC ramps is a concern, but MnDOT is soliciting neighborhood feedback to improve safety in the ramps.
 2. Fuzzy’s Taco Shop had their till stolen after the Food Truck Fair.
 3. Potential drug activity is circulating again near Schafer Richardson.
 4. Root District is experiencing more crime and vandalism recently as well.
- d. Communications – Diane Merrifield & Scott Woller
 1. 14,733 site visits in June, and July is trending higher.
 2. NLNA has renewed 10 website sponsorships and added one additional for Red Rabbit (same owner as current sponsor, Red Cow).
 3. Top-viewed content for June included Mike Binkley’s stories, the movie night event, and the River Connection Park donations post, in addition to News, About, Directory, and Calendar.
 4. Mollie’s newsletters are generating significant traffic to the website.
 5. Facebook and Instagram are receiving significant traffic.
- e. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler
 1. Dana toured the new Four Seasons Private Residences which will be opening next year. 34 units are available for sale starting at \$1.7M.
 2. Colonial Warehouse building is renovating the first floor to all retail and restaurant space.
- f. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
 1. Next Service Saturday is August 14th: 9am trash cleanup, 10am invasive species cleanup, 11am book drive for the neighborhood’s Little Free Libraries.
 2. Forums for upcoming elections:
 - a. Government structure charter amendment. The forum will cover what is being proposed, and the pros and cons of the amendment. Forum will be held via Zoom on August 24.

- b. Public safety amendment. Forum will cover what the amendment is, and what the amendment can and cannot achieve. Forum will be held via Zoom. Date TBD.
 - c. Candidate forum will be held in person on September 13 at Modist. It will include a meet-and-greet with Park Board and Board of Estimate & Taxation (BET) candidates, followed by a moderated forum with City Council candidates. After the forum, we will live-stream the League of Women Voters mayoral forum that is scheduled to occur later that same evening.
 - d. All forums are co-hosted with the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (DMNA). All forums will be inclusive of differing viewpoints and opinions.
- g. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
 - 1. 17 new trash receptacles are going into the North Loop along Washington Ave. Businesses have agreed to empty them.
 - 2. NLNA won a grant from the Watershed District for \$19,500 to hire the Friends of the Mississippi River to assess and revive James Rice Park.
 - 3. David is organizing a Parks Committee on the NLNA Board.
- h. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
 - 1. Fundraising efforts are ongoing to make improvements to the park including a banner, new gravel or mulch, and dog play structures.
 - a. NLNA has met the fundraising goal of \$5,000. Will continue to raise more to cover the expensive cost of gravel removal.
 - b. Pedro and Scott will talk to the previous gravel provider and negotiate the price of removing/replacing the current gravel.
 - c. Other options will also be explored for both removing the current rock and sourcing replacement materials. It was suggested that the city may be able to provide mulch.
 - 2. **Motion is made by Pedro, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to use \$500 in NLNA funds for dog park event collateral.**
- i. Historic Preservation & Public Art – Francesco Parisi & Jackson Schwartz
 - 1. Francesco has received renderings from prospective artists for the mural space on the Runyon's building along Washington Ave. Will need HPC approval on the topic of the mural.
- j. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz
 - 1. NuLoop Annual Meeting was held in a hybrid format last week.
 - 2. NLNA donates money each year (historically \$1,000 annually) to NuLoop Partners as an important organization that benefits the businesses and residents of the neighborhood.
 - a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to donate \$1,000 of NLNA Funds to NuLoop Partners.**
 - 3. Root District workgroups are still continuing their vision work for 10-20 years in the future and examining how it aligns with the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
 - 4. Juxtaposition mural paintings have commenced in the Root District.
 - 5. Jackson will request that NuLoop Partners help support the P+Z Committee with their involvement in the City development approval process.

6. Jackson noted that Dan Collison has created a great 15-minute video of the Root District and its vision. On the [NLNA website](#) and YouTube.
9. Old Business
 - a. TractorWorks River Connection Project Update - Jo Hamburge & David Crary
 1. Jessica, who was leading the project at TractorWorks, has left the company. However, TractorWorks has maintained their role as lead project manager and hope to designate a new employee for Jo and David to work with on the project.
10. New Business
 - a. No new business to report.
11. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

Board adjourned at 9:34 PM.