



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes**

September 29, 2021

7:00 P.M.

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

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86810860825>

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Councilmember Steve Fletcher, Councilmember Jeremiah Ellison, Ella Rasp with Musicant Group, Aaron Haho with Schafer Richardson, Mike Maney with GlassArt Design and Ryan Companies, Sheila Delaney contracting with City of Minneapolis, and Hamoudi Sabri.

1. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:08 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by David, seconded by Dima, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Jo, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the August Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Ella Rasp - Musicant Group
 1. Working with MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis at ABC ramps to better utilize the ramps as multimodal transportation hubs. Musicant will help activate the ramps as gateways to the neighborhood through the "Back to Downtown" Programming Series:
 - a. Sept 23, 5-7p - Mobility + Music at the Hub
 - b. Oct 7, 7-9p - Outdoor Movie (Soul) on the Community Court
 - c. Oct 21, 5-7p - Mobility + Art at the Hub
 - d. Nov 4, 5-7p - Yappy Hour on the Community Court
 - e. Nov 18, 5-7p - Taste of the Community Court
 2. Looking for NLNA to help promote the events and partner with local businesses and food vendors.

- b. Homeless Encampment on 5th St - Hamoudi Sabri's property.
 - 1. There are homeless encampments all throughout the City that have now moved into the North Loop. It is estimate that 400-1,200 individuals experiencing homelessness are living outside in Minneapolis. About 30 of these individuals are currently residing at the North Loop encampment on 5th St.
 - 2. The City is working to form an intensive, coordinated response that will minimize the intrusiveness of the encampment on North Loop residents, while also providing the encampment residents with sustainable and permanent housing. Part of this response is as follows:
 - a. The City will not force the removal of the encampment residents.
 - b. The City will work with outreach teams, Mpls Downtown Improvement District (DID), Hennepin County case managers, and deploy service providers to help encampment residents stay healthy and find sustainable housing. Services will include nurses, trash removal, electricity (including space heaters), sanitation (port-o-potties and handwashing stations), and housing referrals.
 - a. Between the City, outreach teams, and de-facto leadership within the encampment, the encampment is monitored full-time.
 - c. Norms and rules are enforced at the encampment to prevent trash, theft, crime, and other events.
 - a. 1st Precinct MPD will be responsive to any crime that occurs at the encampment.
 - d. Expansion of the encampment will not be allowed in order to prevent exploitative and aggressive groups from merging with the encampment residents.
 - a. The current residents are peaceful and taking the necessary steps to keep a clean and safe encampment.
 - b. If a tent(s) appears on a nearby property (indicating expansion of the encampment) call 311 and/or email Councilmembers Fletcher and Ellison.
 - e. A deadline will be announced for the closing of the encampment.
 - 3. These strategies have worked well at previous encampments in Minneapolis, including the Near North encampment that was located in the Harrison neighborhood. The City partnered with A Mother's Love to provide services to the Near North encampment residents that helped them obtain permanent housing.
 - c. Dog Park - Hamoudi Sabri
 - 1. Hamoudi not receive a letter of support from NLNA as promised for his dog park concept. Diane has provided Hamoudi with a new letter of support.
5. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
- a. NLNA has ~\$47k in unrestricted funds.
 - b. Working through 2022 City funding applications.
 - 1. New City funding structure puts an emphasis on equitable engagement.
 - a. NLNA continues to make efforts to diversify its Board, Committee members, and volunteers in terms of ethnicity as well as renter vs. owner status.
 - b. NLNA should consider other funding sources as well.

6. Secretary Report – Jo Hamburge
 - a. No updates.
7. NLNA Priorities and Committees
 - a. Community Engagement – Scott Woller
 1. Partnering with Nordic Plaza for a kid’s Halloween event. The event will include a movie and candy.
 - a. **Motion is made by Scott, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to use up to \$500 in NLNA funds for a North Loop kid’s Halloween event.**
 2. Scott will schedule a Board planning meeting for the Annual Meeting.
 3. Next Service Saturday is October 9 It will include a flu shot clinic in partnership with Hennepin Healthcare.
 - b. P&Z Committee – Francesco Parisi & Mollie Scozzari
 1. Irina Brown has stepped down as Co-Chair of the Committee. Jo Vos will replace her role.
 - a. **Motion is made by Mollie, seconded by Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Jo Vos as Co-Chair of the P+Z Committee.**
 - c. Safety & Livability – Pedro Wolcott & Jackson Schwartz
 1. Crime is rising in the neighborhood, particularly graffiti, armed robberies, and drug dealing.
 - d. Communications – Mollie Scozzari, Diane Merrifield & Scott Woller
 1. 10,661 total site visits in August. Facebook remains the biggest source of referral traffic, followed by Mill City Times who often publishes NLNA content.
 2. Mike Binkley is continuing to cover neighborhood and business events.
 3. Over 2,300 contacts in Mailchimp. Next newsletter will send the first week in October. The newsletter will include the City’s “Transforming Community Safety” survey link. Events in the newsletter will include Service Saturday and the Halloween event.
 - e. Civic Engagement – David Crary
 1. NLNA held two candidate forums with the Downtown Neighborhood Association. In total, approximately 400 people attended the forums.
 - f. Parks & Beautification – David Crary
 1. David and Bri created a NLNA Parks Committee comprised of nine individuals. The Committee will host an event on October 6 at 6pm at 730 Lofts to engage neighborhood residents and gather ideas for the new 3rd St park.
 2. Buckthorn has been removed from James Rice Park.
 3. Neighborhood trash receptacles will be shipped October 8 and arrive approx. two weeks after.
 - g. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
 1. The providers of the gravel agreed to remove the current rock and replace it with smaller gravel at a lower cost if NLNA finds a nearby spot to dump the old gravel.
 - a. Woodchips are not an eligible alternative for gravel.
 - h. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz

1. Working on a \$10k Urban Land Institute grant that will fund development planning and analysis for the District. Also looking at other grants for community engagement.
8. Old Business
 - a. TractorWorks River Connection Project Update – Jo Hamburge & David Crary
 1. Need permission from the Star Tribune to encroach on their property to connect the river pathway from 2nd St to the back of the TractorWorks property.
 - a. If the Star Tribune does not grant permission, we need the Park Board to remove the park dedication fee earmark for the River Connection project.
 - b. Organics Recycling – Cristy Blake
 1. Additional recycling bins have been added at both existing locations. However, the 7th Ave lot will be redeveloped soon and Colonial Warehouse cannot support any further additional bins, so NLNA will need to find new locations in the future.
9. New Business
 - a. No new business to report.
10. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021.

Motion is made by David, seconded Pedro, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:18 PM.