



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes
October 27, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Colonial Warehouse Common Room, 1st Floor
212 3rd Ave N
Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4813393856>**

7 of 11 Board members were in attendance: Diane Merrifield, Dana Swindler, Dima Rozenblat, Jo Hamburge, Mollie Scozzari, Jackson Schwartz, and Bri Sharkey-Smith.

Neighbors in Attendance: Councilmembers Steve Fletcher and Jeremiah Ellison, Lt. Mark Klukow, Victor Martinez - Ward 5 City Council Candidate, representative from 730 Lofts, Sheila Delaney - contractor with Minneapolis CPED on homelessness, Hamoudi Sabri - owner of the homeless encampment property, City of Minneapolis Staff members, representatives from businesses nearby the homeless encampment, and many other neighbors who attended virtually.

1. October Board Meeting called to order at 7:02 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Dana, seconded by Bri, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Board meeting agenda with no changes.**
3. **Motion is made by Bri, seconded by Jo, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the September Meeting minutes with no changes.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Homeless Encampment
 1. There was a stakeholder meeting last night (October 26th) held by the City with roughly 50 attendees from the neighborhood. Concerns that were voiced:
 - a. What it means to have an encampment in the neighborhood.
 - b. Encampment residents' experience at the encampment.
 - c. Neighbors expressing compassion about how they can help.
 - d. Safety and livability concerns.
 - e. Concerns about the wellbeing of the encampment tenants.
 - f. Logistics and site management with businesses in the area.

2. There is no hard deadline to disband the encampment. The resolution is based on housing the encampment residents. It will take however long it takes to house the residents, though the intention is for the encampment to disband before hard winter.
 - a. There are roughly 20 residents right now, all of which who have completed their housing assessments and will be taking the next step towards housing placement.
 - a. Assessments turn into referrals which turn into placements.
 - b. The City is communicating regularly with residents to build relationships, trust, and speed up the placement process.
 - c. Services (including health services) are provided daily to residents.
3. The City is working hard in partnership with Public Works, Emergency Operations, County, State, and community partners to provide services to the encampment residents that will result in housing and resolution of the encampment. Specific staff have been designated as unsheltered homelessness response coordinators for the encampment.
 - a. The City goal is for everyone to have access to safe and affordable housing.
 - a. This includes creating additional opportunities in low-barrier shelters that allow couples, pets, storage, etc. as well as culturally specific shelters. Shelters are open 24/7, which was not true before the pandemic.
 - b. The encampment is NOT a permanent situation. The City is working with property owner Hamoudi Sabri to resolve the encampment and prevent its spread.
4. Neighborhood concerns:
 - a. Drug addictions present in the encampment. A North Loop neighbor suggests that we add a needles discard container at the encampment.
 - b. Add more trash containers at the encampment to prevent a future rodent situation.
 - c. Need to surveil and assess if nearby theft and vandalism crime is stemming from the encampment, or from opportunists.
 - d. Business owners near the encampment, neighbors, and police need to communicate with each other, continually check in on the encampment residents, coordinate cleanup, coordinate resources, and kick out the bad residents of the encampment.
 - a. There is an email signup sheet that was circulated at the October 26th meeting and at the NLNA Board meeting tonight for neighborhood residents to stay in contact about the encampment.
5. Appointment of New Board Member
 - a. Francesco Parisi is resigning from the Board because he is moving out of state. Sarah Traczyk ran for a Board seat in January 2020 and narrowly lost. She is a current renter at the Paxon and Marketing Manager at Element Hotel in the North Loop.
 1. **Motion is made by Bri, seconded by Mollie, and unanimously approved by the Board to appoint Sarah Traczyk to the NLNA Board.**

6. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
 - a. NLNA has roughly ~\$48k in unrestricted funds.
 - b. Diane and Dima are working through the City's new funding requirements for 2022. Funding application is due December 31, 2021. NLNA is working with Birken Law Office to create the appropriate documents for the application.
 1. NLNA Board by-laws will need to be updated to meet City requirements. As Secretary, Jo is continuing to review and update the by-laws.
 2. City funding for NLNA will continue to decrease each year, so the Board needs to leverage residents, visitors, and businesses in the North Loop for other sources of funds.
 - a. Board will create a "Where Your Money Goes" pitch to show residents and businesses how the NLNA Board contributes to a positive neighborhood.
7. Secretary Report – Jo Hamburge
 - a. NLNA Board needs to have a consistent file-sharing system. Jo is looking at purchasing either the Google or Microsoft product, which will cost \$5-10 per user per month for a total cost of roughly \$1,500.
 1. **Motion is made by Jo, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to use \$1,500 of NLNA funds to subscribe to a file-sharing service designated for the NLNA Board.**
8. NLNA Priorities and Committees
 - a. Community Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
 1. North Loop Halloween Party is on Saturday, October 30th at 5pm at Nordic Plaza.
 2. Annual Meeting will be held on January 26th, 2022.
 3. Flu shot clinic was a huge success - 76 residents were vaccinated.
 4. Friends of the Minneapolis Library is partnering with the Board and stocking the Little Free Libraries in the North Loop.
 - b. P&Z Committee – Mollie Scozzari
 1. Francesco Parisi stepped down as Co-Chair of the P+Z Committee because he is moving out of state. Mollie is filling Francesco's role. Mollie Scozzari and Jo Vos are the new Co-Chairs of the P+Z Committee.
 2. 715 2nd St N - Greco Development is requesting a subdivision of the lot to separate the parking lot from the land that CenturyLink is occupying. They also want to rezone the west side of the lot from Light Industrial to Residential, to match the zoning of Else Warehouse and to provide future opportunity for development. P+Z Committee approved a letter of support.
 - a. **Motion is made by Mollie, seconded by Jo, and unanimously approved by the Board to provide a letter of support to Greco Development for their rezoning and subdivision of 715 2nd St N.**
 - c. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler
 1. Crime is escalating once more, particularly thefts and including thefts at gunpoint. Businesses need to increase lighting and security and communicate with each other to prevent more crime. Police do not have the capacity to respond to these crimes.

- a. Dana will hold another Business Forum to discuss these safety strategies with other local businesses. Date TBD.
- 2. Diane met with Irene Fernando about improving the pedestrian safety of Washington Ave. The Board will continue to relentlessly advocate for more stop signs and pedestrian crossings.
 - a. The County and City have conflicting policies regarding controlled intersections and crosswalks, which is a challenge.
- d. Communications – Mollie Scozzari & Diane Merrifield
 - 1. NLNA is helping promote the ABC Ramps events.
 - 2. Sarah Traczyk will take over Mollie's Communications responsibilities for the Board so Mollie can focus on the P+Z Committee.
- e. Civic Engagement – Bri Sharkey-Smith
 - 1. City elections are on Tuesday, November 2.
 - 2. NLNA has been fortunate to have a team of dedicated and consistent volunteers.
 - a. Last week, volunteers watered all the neighborhood trees, planted 300 daffodil bulbs, cleaned up graffiti, and more.
 - 3. Bri is planning a COVID Booster Shot clinic in the neighborhood once the eligibility expands to include people under the age of 40. Residents and visitors to the North Loop will be able to get a booster or a first-time dose at the clinic.
- f. Parks & Beautification – Bri Sharkey-Smith
 - 1. Bri and David created a Parks & Beautification Committee comprised of nine volunteers who interviewed to be on the Committee. The Committee is meeting on November 3rd at Colonial Warehouse to hold a public session where neighborhood residents can voice their opinions and ideas for the new 3rd St park.
 - a. **Motion is made by Bri, seconded by Dana, and unanimously approved by the Board to 1) formally establish the Parks & Beautification Committee; 2) appoint Bri Sharkey-Smith, David Crary, Sarah Holland, Amber Taft, Tony Blake, Andrew Schafer, Andrew Morse, Quentin Misiag, and Edward Eroo to the Committee; and 3) appoint Bri and David as temporary Co-Chairs of the Committee.**
 - a. The Committee will elect Co-Chairs once they have formalized.
- g. Dog Park – Diane Merrifield
 - 1. Fred Dawe currently acts as the unofficial contact for Dog Park updates among North Loop residents. Fred can help communicate Dog Park news to the neighborhood, but he needs updates from the Board.
 - 2. The Dog Park has been out of bags for a month. 3rd North Apartments has historically supplied the bags - Pedro will reach out to their management team.
 - 3. Gravel replacement will begin on November 3rd.
 - 4. The Board will publish an update in the newsletter about the Dog Park.
- h. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Jackson Schwartz (provided via email)
 - 1. The Root District won a grant competition from Urban Land Institute for development planning and research for livability, sustainability, project planning, and a feasibility study. This grant will be matched by a public entity which will either be the City or the County and bring in \$25k in resources.

2. Root District Website coming in 2022. Root District is working with NuLoop Partners, BKV Architects, Perkins & Will, Catholic Charities, Cushing Terrell Architects, and UMN Minnesota Design Center to build out a website as a tangible platform for the planning and visioning work being done.

9. Old Business

- a. TractorWorks River Connection Project Update – Jo Hamburge
 1. The project is not moving forward, so NLNA is concluding their involvement in the project.
 - a. NLNA will ask the Park Board to reclaim the park dedication fees associated with this project and apply them to another park in the North Loop.
 2. NLNA will reach out to residents who donated to the project and ask if they want to apply their donation to another NLNA use, or if they would like a refund.

10. New Business

- a. Jackson Schwartz will not be running for the Board again in 2022 due to other commitments related to Root District efforts. With Francesco's absence as well, the Board will need to fill roles to cover the Root District & NuLoop Partners and Historic Preservation & Public Art updates.

11. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

Motion is made by Diane, seconded Jo, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 9:00 PM.