

**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**Board Meeting Notes**

**November 17, 2021**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**212 3rd Ave N**

**Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84613627515**

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

Neighbors in Attendance: Residents concerned about the homeless encampment, Ward 3 Councilmember-Elect Michael Rainville, Sheila Delaney who currently contracts with the City on issues surrounding homelessness, and Lt. Klukow.

1. November Board Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M. by Diane.
2. **Motion is made by Jo, 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 David, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the October Meeting minutes with one change:**
   1. TractorWorks River Connection Project Update item 9.a.2.:
      1. 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.
4. Neighborhood Engagement
   1. Homeless Encampment
      1. Shootings have now occurred in and around the encampment.
         1. There is also an uptick in crime in the neighborhood that is unrelated to the encampment.
            1. Michael Rainville and other residents believe there needs to be a larger police presence in the neighborhood.

Residents and businesses can also help mitigate crime in the neighborhood by installing cameras and sending footage of crimes to police.

* + - * 1. Per Lt. Klukow, the police will NOT force people out of the encampment. That is not the role of the police, nor is that a helpful solution to the encampment.

Their role is to document crime, bring charges against criminals, and maintain public safety.

Illegal activity should be reported to 911. Other issues of concern such as sanitation should be reported to 311.

* + - * 1. Some residents believe that the private property owner needs to bear liability for the illegal activity occurring at the encampment.
        2. NLNA will take action on initiating Minneapolis Violence Interrupters in the North Loop.
        3. Other residents have expressed concern for the safety of the encampment residents and are actively involved in, or looking for a way to be involved in, organizing services and resources for the encampment residents.

Residents currently need gas cards, fire extinguishers, fire blankets, a walkie talkie system, assistance with transportation, propane, additional port-o-potties, and more.

Residents can contact Nikki Carlson at [nikki@carlsonturnermiller.com](mailto:nikki@carlsonturnermiller.com) for further information on how the neighborhood can help and where to disburse donations.

Residents can also contact Sheila Delaney at 612-220-2132 or at [sheila@dovetailaction.com](mailto:sheila@dovetailaction.com) about funding the next steps for the encampment.

Mayor and Councilmember contact information:

<Jeremiah.ellison@minneapolismn.gov>, <Steve.fletcher@minneapolismn.gov>, <Peter.ebnet@minneapolismn.gov>, <Mayor@minneapolismn.gov>

* + 1. NLNA has been engaged with City Councilmembers, Mayor Frey, and Lt. Klukow about the encampment. City staff, including senior staff, are dedicated to resolving the encampment. There are additional challenges with resolving this encampment due to the private nature of the property. This involves some legal work on behalf of the City.
    2. Encampment residents currently have access to healthcare support. Additionally, 15 residents have housing referrals and seven have been placed.
       1. Once someone receives a housing referral, it takes around six weeks to be placed into housing.
       2. The City funded 200 new transitional beds in 2020 and they are consistently full.
       3. All but two people in he Near North encampment will be housed by 12/01/2021. It has taken more than a year for these encampment residents to be fully housed.
       4. Hennepin County has 800 people on the chronic homeless index. 132 of these individuals have housing referrals. There is a shortage of housing available for these individuals.

1. Finance Report – Dima Rozenblat
   1. Dima will send out the October Finance Report when it is ready, though finances are stable and largely unchanged.
2. Secretary Report – Jo Hamburge
   1. Jo is in the process of setting up the NLNA file-sharing system.
   2. Jo is also working through the bylaw revisions. The City has a template for bylaws that NLNA will follow. Revisions will include changes to voting policies for elections at the Annual Meeting.
      1. Bylaws will need to be fully revised by December 31 in time for City funding applications.
3. NLNA Priorities and Committees
   1. Community Engagement – Scott Woller & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. Booster shot clinic will accommodate 100 Moderna booster shots in the first couple weeks of December. Hoping to host the clinic at Modist for “A shot and a beer”. A date will be confirmed soon.
      2. Annual Meeting
         1. Prizes will be given to volunteers as recognition for their service to the North Loop.
            1. The Board will specially recognize outstanding volunteers in the neighborhood.
         2. The Board needs to pull together a list of specific and detailed volunteer opportunities for residents. Ex: “This is a way to be involved in the Dog Park”.
         3. Board members will be featured in videos, including a “call to action” video to raise funds and sign up volunteers.
         4. Scott is working to gather materials and giveaways from businesses to fill 300 tote bags that all attendees will receive.
         5. There will be a postcard invitation mailed out to the neighborhood.
   2. P&Z Committee – Mollie Scozzari
      1. The Committee drafted a list of 2021 accomplishments to be included in the Annual Meeting presentation.
   3. Safety & Livability – Dana Swindler & Pedro Wolcott
      1. Lt. Klukow recommends that residential buildings and businesses add more cameras in and around their property to document crime.
      2. Residents also mentioned organizing watch groups for their buildings to deter opportunistic crime.
   4. Communications – Sarah Traczyk & Diane Merrifield
      1. The next newsletter will go out in the first or second week of December. Sarah will include information about the Annual Meeting, the booster shot clinic, and a list of tangible action items that residents can follow to improve public safety in the North Loop.
   5. Business Engagement – Dana Swindler
      1. Dana has met with businesses to coordinate and fund a roaming security system to supplement the police presence in the neighborhood.
   6. Parks & Beautification – David Crary & Bri Sharkey-Smith
      1. **Motion is made by Bri, seconded by David, and unanimously approved by the Board to contract a minute-taker for the Parks & Placemaking Committee meetings.**
   7. Dog Park – Pedro Wolcott
      1. The new rock has been installed and has proven to be much more favorable for the dogs. The dogs are now playing on it and spending less time on the concrete pad.
      2. Pedro is looking into fixing some benches and other items at the Dog Park.
      3. The poop bags have been refilled and will continue to be maintained.
   8. Root District & NuLoop Partners – Sarah Traczyk & Pedro Wolcott
      1. A new swimming complex is being built and will be completed in late 2023/early 2024.
      2. NuLoop Partners is helping three entrepreneurial black women start their businesses in the Root District.
4. Old Business
   1. TractorWorks River Connection Park – David Crary & Jo Hamburge
      1. David is working with the Star Tribune to figure out why they are blocking the easement for the project.
      2. Mollie and Jo will work on messaging for the project, specifically to the individuals who made donations, due to the slow-moving and uncertain nature of the project.
5. New Business
   1. No new business.
6. The next board meeting will be the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

**The Board adjourned at 9:38 PM.**