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**North Loop Neighborhood Association**

**April Board Meeting**

**Date: 4/27/2022**

**Time 7:00pm**

**[Zoom Link](#)**

1. 9 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Jo Hamburge, Ericka Jones, Sina Pleggenkuhle, Mollie Scozzari, Sarah Traczyk, Scott Woller, Pat Dawson
  - a. Guests in attendance: Doug Harvey, Henry Jarvenin, Cristy Blake, Michael Byers, Fred Dawes, Anastasia Leahy, Amir Berenjian
  - b. Board Members Absent: David Kisan, Dima Rozenblat,
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 7:05 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to pass the April agenda and the March meeting minutes. Hamburge makes a motion to pass the meeting minutes and the agenda, Crary seconds the motion, and the vote passes unanimously.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement (North Loop Neighbors and Guests)
  - a. Michael Byers of Energy Gear & Amir Berenjian of REM5 are working on an event at Graze, they want to make a large sign that would represent North Loop- NLNA is sponsoring this event
    - i. Want to use and highlight local artists to create a painting to represent what's in the city
    - ii. Creating a sign with measurements around 6x6, they want to donate this to the North Loop as a landmark piece in the neighborhood
    - iii. NLNA is in support of this idea but does not have enough money to put into a project like this. Other local companies should sponsor this as advertisement for the neighborhood
    - iv. Board members brainstorm potential partnerships, funding, and locations
    - v. NLNA's support is contingent on the sign including the North Loop logo

- vi. **Crary makes a motion to use \$600 of North Loop engagement funds to support the suggested sign with approval from the City. Hamburge seconds this motion, and motion passes**
  - b. Farmers Market Proposal (Doug Harvey & Sina Pleggenkuhle)
    - i. The Minneapolis Farmers Market is trying to expand offerings and locations. This summer they are returning to their protocol prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
    - ii. Three Pillars the Minneapolis Farmers Market want to focus on: Food, Arts, Culture
    - iii. Proposal: Community Garden in the North Loop
      - 1. Multiple Gardens throughout the North Loop
      - 2. The first community garden would be located at the Lyndale Farmers Market
        - a. Taken care of by *A Backyard Farm* who used to be a vendor of the market. They would have a weekly maintenance schedule and provide programming to the North Loop
        - b. School children would be able to learn from the community gardens and start with their own Farmers Market
      - 3. Pleggenkuhle wants NLNA's help to start this programming part of a community garden
    - iv. Pleggenkuhle requests \$5,000-\$10,000 for the MPLS Farmers Market.
    - v. **David Crary makes a motion to give MPLS Farmers Market \$5,000 for the Farmers Market to have community gardens with the stipulations that a proposal be finalized and the city approves it. Hamburge seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously**
5. Finance Report
- a. Rozenblat is stepping down in the summer
  - b. Crary has been treasurer before; he will assist in this until a new board member is found
6. Secretary Report (Hamburge)
- a. Per new bylaws, each committee needs a charter, however there's no template. Planning + Zoning already had a charter. Parks + Placemaking and Safety + Livability committees need one
7. Committee Reports
- a. P+Z Committee (Scozzari)
    - i. Trash Receptacles
      - 1. Donors who gave NLNA funds to place new trash receptacles are upset that there are still plastic trash bins in the neighborhood. The trouble is getting businesses they are placed outside of to maintain the receptacles. The city will only empty the plastic ones

- a. Cristy Blake has been asked several times if we could get recycling receptacles in the same design – unfortunately these would also need to be maintained by the businesses, which would be difficult
      - b. Potentially brand the trash cans with North Loop logo, this could count as engagement funds
    - 2. Next steps- talk to businesses and see if we can replace the plastic ones
  - ii. Letter regarding the alleyway behind The Copham
    - 1. Letter voices NLNA's concerns against using this alleyway as a private utility for the building when it has been a public utility for many years
    - 2. **Crary makes a motion to approve, Hamburge seconds, passes unanimously**
  - iii. Letter to Minneapolis Community Planning Department with NLNA's opinions on the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Notice of Funding Availability
    - 1. Letter endorses several policies and procedures currently in place or proposed
    - 2. **Scott makes a motion to accept, Hamburge seconds, passes unanimously**
- b. Community Engagement (Woller)
  - i. Candy Grab was a successful event, around 350 kids, 7,000 eggs, and \$1,100 in donations given to the event
  - ii. Earth Day event was small given the weather, but there was a lot of clean-up done
  - iii. Food Truck Fair- 11 food trucks registered so far. \$200 fees going to start coming in. Need support from the Parks Department to use park space.
- c. Safety & Livability (Jones, Dawson, Crary)
  - i. Ericka Jones and Pat Dawson met to discuss what safety and livability mean to NLNA. Created a draft of a roadmap with four main pillars to create a mission statement
  - ii. Henry Jarvenin, Policy Associate for Councilmember Rainville's, reached out to the city about the traffic on Washington and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is waiting to hear back
  - iii. Neighborhood Block Groups have begun with amazing reception
    - 1. Going door to door to introduce themselves, asking neighbors what the issues are
  - iv. First precinct may be relocating out of North Loop – location not final
  - v. Idea for Self Defense classes in NLNA
- d. Parks + Placemaking (Crary)
  - i. Great Earth Day event- ended up with 15-20 people helping in the parks
  - ii. Tractor Works Project- Open Washington Avenue to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

1. Part of the property has been discovered to have public easement. This makes this project more possible
  2. NLNA should not be taking the lead on acquiring funders for this project – this responsibility should be that of Tractor Works and its owner Goldman Sachs
  3. Crary wants NLNA to strongly suggest to the Minneapolis Park's board that this street be opened up
  - iii. Tour of the Duffey building being arranged for the first week of May
  - e. Dog Park (Crary, Merrifield)
    - i. Bench needs to be repaired
    - ii. Need bins for all the donated tennis balls, current ones keep balls wet
    - iii. Gentle slope in the middle of the park is causing a dirt patch in the middle, need a rake to put the rocks back in place
  - f. Communications (Pleggenkuhle, Traczyk, Merrifield)
    - i. Event at Union Hmong Kitchen May 21<sup>st</sup>- James Beard award given to Minneapolis Chefs
      1. What is NLNA offering (in funds) towards diverse initiatives?
      2. Pleggenkuhle requests funding for entertainment (local Asian DJ and dancers) Asking for \$1,000 for this event
      3. **Crary makes a motion to give \$1,000 towards the event, Dawson seconds, the motion passes**
    - ii. Pleggenkuhle wants to take on highlighting amazing work done in the neighborhood by People of Color in the communications segment
  - g. Root District (Pleggenkuhle)
    - i. High level positions at NuLoop and Roots District are hiring
    - ii. Looking for a general manger/executive director
8. Old Business
- a. Letter on encampments- the objective for NLNA have all elected leaders that we think we can do better. NLNA's responsibilities extends to neighbors that are housed and unhoused. The Board makes edits to this letter together before preparing to send it to elected officials.

**The Board adjourned at 9:41 PM**