



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
February Board Meeting
Date: 3/1/2023, Time 7:00pm
Colonial Warehouse and Zoom**

1. 10 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Margee Lancaster, Cristy Blake, Shayla Frechette, Ericka Jones, David Kisan, Blake Peterson, Sarah Traczyk, Scott Woller
 - a. Board Members Absent: Pat Dawson
 - b. Guests in attendance: Michael Rainville, Henry Jarvenin, Jo Vos (Parks & Placemaking committee)
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 7:01 pm
3. Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the February agenda and the November & January meeting minutes
 - a. **Kisan makes a motion to pass the February agenda and Crary seconds the motion. The board votes to pass the motion unanimously.**
 - b. **Kisan makes a motion to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes, Jones seconds the motion, the board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - c. Amendment to the January 2023 Minutes
 - i. Amended to add Lancaster's name and change the year to 2023.
 - ii. **Lancaster makes a motion to pass the amended January meeting minutes and Traczyk seconds the motion. The board votes unanimously to pass the motion.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement (North Loop Neighbors and Guests)
 - a. Councilmember Michael Rainville Update
 - i. Working on pedestrian safety on Washington Avenue, adding a lighted and raised crosswalk.
 - ii. Sidewalk Shoveling- call 311 and send photos when sidewalks need clearing.
 - iii. Police Report- Late night crime in the North Loop is beginning to pick up.
 - iv. Taste of Minnesota Festival will happen on Nicollet Mall this summer. Working with the City to provide safety and security during this event.
 - v. Pride Weekend end of June as well as the Taylor Swift Concert.
 - vi. Pedestrian Only Zone planned from May 5th – October 31st in the Downtown Area.

5. Board & Committees

a. Board Officer Elections

- i. Current Officers: President, Diane Merrifield; Vice President, David Crary; Treasurer, Margee Lancaster; Secretary, open seat.

1. **Woller makes a motion to elect Merrifield as President, Crary seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**
2. **Merrifield makes a motion to reelect Crary as Vice President, Jones seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**
3. **Kisan makes a motion to reelect Lancaster as treasurer, Merrifield seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**

- ii. Secretary needs to be filled.

1. Changing name of "Secretary" to "Coordinator"
2. Could NLNA consider hiring someone for this role? Maintain the database, etc. Discussion.

- iii. Planning + Zoning Committee Member Approvals- Peterson/Vos

1. There were three candidates who ran, Mollie Scozzari & Arya Alizadeh elected as a committee member.
2. **Crary makes a motion to approve new committee members, Merrifield seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**

6. Finance Report (Lancaster)

a. Balance Sheet & Income Statement

- i. Preliminary statements have been distributed; final numbers will be available soon.
- ii. There was a profit in 2022. Current bank balances are healthy.

b. 2023/24 Budget Update

- i. Brainstorming ideas to bring in revenue in 2023.
- ii. Can someone create a template for asking networks?

7. Board Reports

a. Board Culture Session Review/Discussion (Woller)

- i. Reviewed goals, including neighborhood safety, financial health, connect with underserved neighbors, increased communications, improve greening.

b. Neighborhood Engagement (Community, Civic, Business)

- i. Annual Meeting- review strengths and weaknesses.
- ii. Candy Grab- April 8th, 10 am at Target Field. Prepping on April 1st at Corner Coffee North Loop. Need to provide proof of liability insurance. NLNA budgeted \$500 for this event.
 1. **Woller makes a motion to pledge \$500 to this event, Traczyk seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**
- iii. Earth Day Cleanup- April 22nd, goal for 200 labor hours volunteered, review goals.
- iv. Food Truck Fair- Proposed date July 16th, need 100 volunteers. Anticipated cost \$13,000 and estimated income \$15,000.
- v. Avivo Neighborhood Agreement (Crary)

1. NLNA funded a trash pickup program with Equitable Engagement Funds with Avivo.
 2. Starting at Plymouth Avenue and moving down Washington, \$20 an hour in gift cards for workers.
- vi. zAmya/Avivo City Participation Grant (Merrifield)
1. More participation from neighbors will be important this year.
 2. Could we combine this with National Night Out?
 3. **Crary makes a motion to write a letter of support for zAmya, Traczyk seconds the motion, the motion is approved.**
- vii. North Loop Parents/Kids
1. NLNA raised funds to create playground, there was a NLNA neighbors and parents' group, this faded away, but we are interested in bringing it back.
 2. Our NL neighbor Karise is interested in jumpstarting this. Frechette will be the liaison from the board.
 3. Considering launching this at the Candy Grab event.
- c. Communications (Frechette)
- i. March Newsletter has been drafted; small edits are being made.
 - ii. Communications Strategy/2023 plan
 1. A newly organized content calendar is being created.
 2. Creating rules about where things are posted, what is shared, what is being advertised, etc.
 3. Utilizing LinkedIn for business connections.
 - iii. Wayfinding Map/Brochure Distribution
 1. Warmer weather will allow more distribution.
 2. Newsletter mentions it can be picked up in person.
- d. Planning + Zoning Committee (Peterson)
- i. The new Intersect building is having neighbors vote on new Art that is being installed at the building.
 - ii. Washington 606, the Loop, they want new windows on the west façade on the upper units of the building. The P+Z Committee approved.
 1. Kisan makes a motion to approve the letter of support for 606 Washington, Jones seconds the motion; motion is approved.
 - iii. NOLO's rooftop, submitted redesign and needs approval. Going to HCP but they are not seeking approval from P+Z before this, but they will be presenting the update to the committee.
 - iv. 702 1/2 1st Street N. submitting a liquor license to the city to open a wine shop. They are coming to a future meeting with proposal.
 - v. 200 N. 1st Street (old Bachelor Farmer), seeking approval to cut a new window opening on the Northeast Façade, a representative is coming to March meeting to discuss plans with the committee.
 - vi. Crary requests that trash cans be included in all new building proposals – also a parking plans for workers so they don't take over all parking around developments.

- e. Safety + Livability (Jones, Dawson)
 - i. Took list of volunteers, calling group of volunteers in the next month to explore interest in joining the committee.
 - ii. Didn't get a chance to connect with Aileen about safety walks, but there will be one this Friday.
 - iii. Livability with the snowing/shoveling. The heavy snowfall reduces accessibility.
- f. Parks + Placemaking (Crary, Kisan)
 - i. Committee Update/2023 Priorities
 - 1. Sent a letter to go to the park board about park dedication funds in September of 2022. Only one of the six parks' commissioners responded.
 - 2. Merrifield and Crary met with two of the park's commissioners about the plan for the park dedication fees. Over a million dollars, this comes in when new developers develop in the neighborhood.
 - 3. Both commissioners recommend reaching out to the superintendent of the Minneapolis Parks Department.
 - 4. 3rd street park will be a priority for these funds, as will continued work on James Rice Park.
 - ii. Bridge Concept
 - 1. Pedro (local restauranter) is looking to gather a group of artists to reimagine the bridge that runs down Washington Avenue. Before the P+P group comes up with a plan to take to local leadership/the city, they are looking for community engagement/support.

8. Old Business

- a. Board Meeting Time/Place
 - i. Meeting place is not conducive to inviting neighbors in. Brainstorming new ideas of meeting locations, bring proposals to next meeting.
 - ii. Proposed having meetings begin at 6:00 pm starting next month, and board approved.
 - iii. Need to keep meetings shorter, board members should send updates via email prior to meetings.

9. The Board adjourns at 9:00 pm