



North Loop Neighborhood Association
August Board Meeting
Date: 8/30/2023
Time 6:00pm
Tractor Building
[Zoom](#) Link

1. **9** of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Cristy Blake, Shayla Frechette, Jeff Sondag, Scott Woller, Blake Peterson, Margee Lancaster, Ericka Jones
 - a. Board Members Absent: Sarah Traczyk, Pat Dawson
 - b. Guests in attendance: CM Michael Rainville, Henri Jarvenin (Aid to CM Rainville), Nikongo Cigolo (Metro Transit Team Public Involvement) , Josh Neumann (Kind Lips), Mike Binkley, Meghan Miller, Nick Landwer (Director, Transit System Design & Engineering) Dan Soler (Blue Line Extension Deputy Project Director),
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:00 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the August Agenda. Crary make a motion, Woller seconds the motion, the board passes the vote unanimously.**
4. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, with changes introduced by Blake. Blake makes a motion, Sondag seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**
5. Neighborhood Engagement (North Loop Neighbors and Guests)
 - a. CM Michael Rainville Update - Henri Jarvenin
 - b. METRO Blue Line Extension - Kaja Vang and Metro Transit team
 - i. Project Overview from Engineer
 1. The Metro Blue Line Extension is a high-frequency/high-capacity transit extension that will allow a single-seat ride from Brooklyn Park to the Airport/Mall of America.

2. The extension is 13.4 miles and 12 new stations will connect Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, Brooklyn Park and surrounding communities, including areas with high rates of zero car households.
- ii. Project Timeline and Next Steps
 1. Right now METRO is analyzing Environmental impact, and doing analysis on route options.
 2. Next steps are estimated to begin in Summer 2024, with the Municipal Consent Process.
 - iii. Route Options
 1. Metro Transit has considered many options, and the current staff recommendation is as follows: Penn Ave Station Area[1], West Broadway and 21st Avenue[2], an extension of 21st Avenue[3], Plymouth Station on Washington Avenue[4], and a transit way for a portion of 10th Avenue[5].
 2. 21st Ave Extension [2] - Building a Bridge over i-94 to get from north side to other side.
 3. 10th Ave Transitway [5] Design Options
 - a. Transit Mall Option - Leaves bike lane, Light Rail, Pedestrian walkway.
 - b. One-way Northbound Option - Allows for one-way northbound traffic.
 4. Neighborhood Comments/Discussion
 - a. Attending guest asks what will happen to 10th Ave residents, and the historic buildings they reside in.
 - i. Metro Transit assures anywhere they build light rail they have to understand the impacts and mitigations both for construction and usage, and that the environmental impact studies they are doing include sound and vibrations.
 - b. Jones brings up concerns about safety and crime rates increasing with transit. Metro Transit assures that their safety and security initiative is working, as studies are showing ridership is increasing, and crime is decreasing.
- c. Josh Neumann, Kind Lips
 - i. Josh Neumann is working on the Kind Lips initiative. He has lived in the North Loop for 20 years, and has noticed that not as many people say hi to each other as they used to. He is putting sidewalk decals around that says "Be kind, say hi" with the hope that it helps to build community, and create a positive environment.
 - d. Be The Match
 - i. Be the Match is the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on saving lives through cellular therapy, located by Target Field.

- ii. Abria is an intern there, and has come to inform the board of a Fall Gala on September 30th, and a silent auction. Additionally, asking for donations for the silent auction, all of the income would give grants to families that are in need of a donor.

e. Brent

- i. 10th annual Bourough block party, 1pm-10pm Saturday, October 7th
- ii. Here to ask for support on the newsletter side or the social side.

6. Finance Report (Lancaster)

a. Balance Sheet & Income Statement

- i. Tim was able to complete the migration yesterday, drafted through August. Goal is to have financials by the end of next week.
- ii. Lancaster wants the board to think about the equitable engagement funds, NLNA has a little over \$10,000 to spend on it. Come up with a plan by next board meeting.
- iii. Jones asks if the NLNA can find a way to use those funds to do equity research amongst North Loop residents for the Metro Blue Line extension.

b. Website Sponsorships (Merrifield)

- i. Merrifield has invoiced the website sponsors, received \$5,000 in net deposit. Will be going to the PO box to check for more checks, have not received payment from six sponsors yet.

c. 2023/24 Budget Update

- i. No Update

d. Accountant/Bookkeeper

- i. No Update

7. Board Reports

a. Business Engagement Strategies Update (Blake)

- i. Initiative is gaining traction, Blake encourages everyone to try to keep making progress engaging and meeting with neighborhood businesses.

b. Neighborhood Engagement (Community, Civic, Business)

i. Service Saturdays

1. September Service Saturday is a tree planting in James Rice Park on September 9th working with Friends of the Mississippi. 150 trees being planted, and they are in need of volunteers.
2. Additionally, there will be a School Donation Drive. Blake connected with a couple of teachers from an elementary school in North Minneapolis, and they sent them a list of supplies, and a bio for the school. They're really excited. It should be a very big event.

ii. North Loop Kids (Frechette)

1. On Saturday, September 23rd from 10-12, there will be a NL Kids event at the Farmer's Market. Activities include things like corn shucking, a vegetable scavenger hunt, and more. Event will be in the upcoming newsletter.
 2. Woller made a great new logo for the initiative.
- iii. NLNA/DMNA/LWV Candidate Forum (Sept 21 - Mpls Central Library)
1. September 21st at MPLS Central Library
 2. Combination of NLNA and DMNA and the League of Women's Voters.
- iv. The Loop Promotion - September 28th, 2023
1. 11% of profit, net revenues from 11am to 11pm would be directed to the North Loop, at a rate to be determined, with a funding focus on the food truck fair and annual meeting. September 28th, it'll be in the newsletter tomorrow
- c. Planning + Zoning Committee (Peterson)
- i. Committee Update
 1. Last meeting, residents from Bookman Lofts came to discuss noise concerns arising from frequent construction and events.
 2. George Group North came to petition for 501-415 Royalston Avenue to be rezoned from a Zone DT1 to Zone PR1 for use in a facility for modular affordable housing construction. Peterson sent them an email saying they needed more information.
- d. Safety + Livability (Dawson, Crary)
- i. Pedestrian Safety Update - (Dawson)
 1. Dawson is no longer on the board.
 2. Merrifield and Jones met to keep reimagining the 'livability' side of this subcommittee, and need to revisit the 'safety' side before next steps.
 - ii. Avivo Trash Pick-up
 1. 6-12 people a week out helping with trash, is going well.
- e. Parks + Placemaking (Crary, Blake)
- i. Michael Schroeder from the Park Board has been working with Crary on park dedication funds, has some creative ideas. Will see the details of park dedication funds in a memo soon, and they will be at the next board meeting.
 - ii. **Blake would like to make a motion to delegate \$1,500 for tree watering in 2024. Woller seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- f. Annual Meeting
- i. The annual meeting is an opportunity to engage neighbors, Woller says this is a clear opportunity for people to get involved, and to connect with people and provide updates on the NL from the past year.

8. Old Business
 - a. Board Meeting Location
9. New Business
 - a. Spot in the board open. Committee needs to consider what needs the board has.
10. Board Deliberations on Transit Presentations
11. **The Board adjourns at 8:34 pm**