



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association
September Board Meeting**

Date: 9/27/2023

Time 6:00pm

Tractor Building

[Zoom](#) Link

1. 10 of 10 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Cristy Blake, Shayla Frechette, Jeff Sondag, Sarah Traczyk, Scott Woller, Blake Peterson, Margee Lancaster, Ericka Jones
 - a. Guests in attendance: Lexi Oeifke (FSR), Andrew Morse (park volunteer), Henri Jarvenin (Aide for CM Michael Rainville), Amanda Kelzenberg (FSR)
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:00 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the September Agenda. Crary make a motion, Woller seconds the motion, the board passes the vote unanimously.**
4. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Frechette makes a motion, Crary seconds the motion, the motion passes unanimously.**
5. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Neighborhood Engagement/Event Updates (Woller, Traczyk)
 - i. NLNA North Loop Halloween Event (Woller)
 1. NLNA will be hosting a North Loop Halloween Party on October 31st 5:30pm - 7:30PM, featuring candy prizes, entertainment, costume parade, and more.
 2. **Crary makes a motion to approve \$500 for candy. Jones seconds the motion, and the motion passes.**
 3. There is a link for sponsorships of \$250 or more.
 4. Volunteers needed for set-up, working the event and cleanup
 - ii. Annual Meeting (Woller)
 1. Priorities for planning are finding a location, forming a funding strategy, building a calendar, and engaging neighbors.

- a. Brainstorming potential locations for the meeting. Current ideas include: Target Field, Be The Match, North Loop Green, Vacant Office Building floors, The Fillmore
- iii. Pre-Planning Potential Events for 2024
 - 1. Community Garage Sale - Saturday, May 18th, 2024
 - a. This will be a sidewalk sale event, with participants bringing their items to the sidewalks to be sold. NLNA will be making a digital map that sponsors can be added to, for attendees to use.
 - 2. Other events in 2024 include the Candy Grab, Food Truck Fair, National Night Out, Grand Opening at North Loop Green and Halloween
- b. Business Engagement Strategies Update (Blake)
 - i. Lancaster, Sondag, and Blake are meeting this Saturday to begin inventorying light poles that need signage or signs that need repair or hardware. Woller to provide guidance.
- c. Service Saturday - Traczyk/Morse/Merrifield
 - i. Trash Pickup
 - 1. Attendance at the last trash pickup was a bit disappointing.
 - 2. Morse says that the overlap between the trash pickup and the tree planting is maybe potentially siphoning volunteers from both events.
 - 3. Jones raises concerns with city-managed trash can that has been unmanaged for an extensive period of time. Jarvenin says he will follow up with Jones.
 - ii. James Rice Park Tree Planting
 - 1. Crary would like to recognize and introduce Andrew Morse.
 - a. Andrew Morse has been a terrific partner on the James Rice Park project. He has done great administrative work, contributes much physical labor, and does a lot behind the scenes. Crary wants to extend his and the board's gratitude for his hard work.
 - 2. Tree Planting Assessment (Morse)
 - a. Overall, 50 volunteers managed to plant over 150 trees of multiple varieties on October 14th. The blend will help make the forest stronger and more beautiful.
 - b. Primary team consisted of three basic managers, and a conservation expert from Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) providing consulting support.
 - c. Looking forward, the team needs a better plan for a regular watering regimen and managing the protective covers.
 - d. Earlier this summer Morse did a survey on the previous 2021 tree planting, and roughly 50% of the trees have

survived. That data was supplied to FMR which helped inform what trees were planted this year.

- e. Morse has begun flagging and IDing trees, so they can be seen from a distance. This will help in overseeing their maintenance in the winter months and beyond. They've built a database of about 90 volunteers through the QR codes in the park.
- f. Over the winter, they would like to put together more educational resources, and get that into people's hands.
- g. Morse says 'It takes a village to plant a forest', and would like to thank all the volunteers, the people who show up every week. Substance Church and US Bank have been great volunteers and partners. Thanks for Crary's leadership, and thanks to the rest of the board for protecting James Rice Park.

- 3. Tomorrow, 9/28 at 11:00 AM Crary will be meeting with Star Tribune, Solhavn, Parks + Rec, and Tractor Works, to get an easement for the park. Timeline is about 1-2 years to get that finished.
- 4. Crary and Merrifield continue efforts working with MPRB on a plan to get funding support for James Rice Park and the 3rd Street Park through the Parkland Dedication Fees held by them for use on our behalf.
 - a. Crary is seeing progress and support and will know more in the next 30 days.
- 5. School Donation Drive - Merrifield
 - a. Merrifield says the donation drive was disappointing. Received about six bags of school supplies. A number of factors including overlap with other Service Saturday activities, school had already begun,

6. Finance Report (Lancaster)

- a. Balance Sheet & Income Statement
 - i. Lancaster has the draft of the YTD financials. The budget will roughly break even.
 - ii. Jones has offered to help figure out disbursements for the Equitable Engagement Funds, will have something to present for funding before year end.
 - iii. Lancaster will have financials through August finalized by next Tuesday.

7. Board Reports

- a. NuLoop Partners (Traczyk)
 - i. No update.
- b. Neighborhood Engagement (Community, Civic, Business)

- i. North Loop Kids (Frechette)
 - 1. Frechette says the September NL Kids event at the Farmers Market was disappointing, but was a learning experience. They are looking for more ideas from the board.
 - 2. One of the primary concerns was Interest voiced vs. attendance was different by a wide margin.
 - 3. No event in October, instead will be participating in the Halloween event.
- ii. The Loop Promotion - September 28, 'Eleven It Up in The Loop' - Merrifield
 - 1. Tomorrow is the first time trying this type of fundraising event and is a trial run to see if something like it works. Merrifield is encouraging attendance, and for folks to bring their business lunches here.
 - 2. 11% of all profits from 11am to 11pm, will go to the North Loop.
 - 3. If it works, the NLNA can try this with other restaurants.
- c. Planning + Zoning Committee (Peterson)
 - i. Committee Update
 - 1. North Loop Green (NLG) is looking to renew the letter of support NLNA gave to them in 2020. NLG gave the P+Z committee a rough calendar of events they are putting on to engage the community.
 - 2. **Crary makes a motion to approve the letter of support. Woller seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**
- d. Safety + Livability (Crary)
 - i. Safety and Security Summit - October 3rd at Mill City Museum 4:30-9:30 (Jones/Merrifield)
 - 1. Merrifield and Jones will be there; other board members are encouraged be there as well. Maps will be available as well as a handout containing information on NLNA.
 - ii. Avivo Trash Pickup (Crary)
 - 1. Crary says that unless he is there, it doesn't really get done, and would like to find more volunteers. He thinks this will be important messaging for the annual meeting.
- e. Parks + Placemaking (Crary, Blake)
 - i. Committee Report - Crary
 - 1. Working on filling vacant positions.
 - ii. Dog Parade (Oct 14th), Blood Drive (Nov 10)
 - 1. Crary is working with a NL business to do a dog-related event, and will have the info to Mike Binkley for the newsletter by Friday.
 - 2. There will be no Blood Drive in November.
 - iii. James Rice Park Fall Calendar
 - 1. October and November are going to be tree maintenance and bulb planting. Morse will communicate with Merrifield to make sure those opportunities are submitted to the newsletter.

iv. Trees (Blake)

1. There is enough in the budget for one more tree watering in 2023. Blake will begin inventorying dead trees or open spots.
2. NLNA received 300 free bulbs from Minneapolis Park+Rec and will communicate with Binkley about the planting details for the newsletter. Planned to take place on Saturday, October 14th, 2023.

8. New Business

a. 2024 Annual Meeting and Election Details

- i. Jones will not be returning for another term. Dawson's spot is still vacant. NLNA is developing a description of these roles.

9. **Crary makes a motion to adjourn, Sondag seconds, the motion passes unanimously.**

10. **The Board adjourns at 7:45 pm**