



North Loop Neighborhood Association
August Board Meeting
Date: 08/27/2025
Time 6:00pm
Itasca Building
[Zoom](#) Link

1. 10 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Andrew Morse, Grant Johnson, Louis Raymond, Ali Odenthal, Scott Woller, Cristy Blake, Mary Milla Binkley, Kyle Ingebrigtsen (virtual). Jeff Vranicar absent.
 - a. Guests in attendance: Maurice Ward, Candidate for Ward 5 City Council; Ronald Brown, Community Member; Eli Sherman, Community Member; Michael Rainville, Ward 3 CM.
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:01 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the August meeting agenda. Blake makes a motion, Woller seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Maurice Ward, Candidate for Ward 5 City Council
 - i. Provided an introduction and rationale for running for Ward 5 City Council Member. Reviewed his goals of focusing on public safety, maintaining diversity of the community, and further connecting with residents in the area. He is planning to attend the Ward 5 Community Forum and would like to remain connected with NLNA.
 - b. Michael Rainville, Ward 3 CM
 - i. Reviewed grant award of \$9500 for the North Loop Food Truck Fair.
 - ii. Rideshare Update: Overall working well, interested in how/if this can be implemented Downtown.
 1. Two sandwich boards providing further explanation of the Rideshare Drop Off/Pick Up Zones have been created with funding from NLNA Board (approved unanimously via email). Rainville will reach out to Rabbit Hole and Smack Shack management to see if they would be willing to help ensure these are put out/taken in.
 2. Meter signage has been updated in the Rideshare areas for patron awareness. Parking enforcement was initially ticketing anyone parked in these areas but will now begin towing as well. Woller suggests painting the street in these areas for further awareness, Rainville will inquire.
 3. Binkley reports that she has received questions from other neighborhood organizations, will forward to Rainville.
 - iii. In September, Rainville's office will be starting outreach for the BRT H line that will extend down Washington Ave. Looking for community engagement in regard to station design/construction.

5. Finance Report - Vranicar
 - a. Vranicar not present at today's meeting, will hold off on Financial Report review until September meeting.
6. Community Engagement - Woller
 - a. National Night Out
 - i. Overall successful.
 - ii. Pizza was improved compared to hot dogs in previous years. Woller has reached out to local restaurants previously to see if they are interested in providing food for this event but have not received responses.
 - iii. Some difficulties with the limited bathroom (one key card for one bathroom). Have inquired about propping the door open for this event previously and have been told "No".
 - b. Food Truck Fair
 - i. 29 Food Trucks and 15 non-vendor booths
 - ii. 45 volunteer shifts were filled, all volunteers were very helpful throughout the day!
 - iii. About 10,000 people in attendance - slightly down due to predicted rain
 - c. Halloween Event - October 31
 - i. Event set up will start at 5:00PM with the event taking place from 6:00-8:00PM
 - ii. Woller meeting with North Loop Green on 08/29/25. NLG will manage DJ
 - iii. Holding off on budget proposal at this time as Woller is currently seeking sponsorships for the event.
 - d. Annual Meeting Planning - Scheduled for October 1st
 - e. North Loop Board Culture Meeting - Proposed for February.
7. Business Engagement - Blake, Crary
 - a. NLNA Business Council Update
 - i. Working on pricing memberships for businesses.
 - ii. NLNA Neighborhood Coordinator Position:
 1. Provided outline of job description to Christie Rock Hantge
 2. Discussed pay scale for this position
 - a. Crary asking for a motion to set a pay of up to \$40/hour (\$18,000/year). Crary has reviewed this with Vranicar, and Vranicar is comfortable with this from a budgetary standpoint. Additionally, he asks that this position be open-ended with a one year review and renewal, if appropriate.
 - i. **Raymond makes a motion to approve the proposed pay, Woller seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
8. Planning + Zoning Subcommittee Report - Ingebrigtsen, Johnson
 - a. Approvals
 - i. Avivo Village Requesting Conditional Use Permit
 1. This permit is required as they house over 700 individuals. A temporary Use Permit was received during COVID, and Avivo is now transitioning to a Conditional Use Permit. This will not lead in any changes in operations aside from some possible updates to trash dumpsters and adding bike racks.
 2. No objections from P+Z Subcommittee.
 3. **Ingebrigtsen calls for a motion to approve the requests. Morse makes a motion, Crary seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.**

- ii. First Avenue Construction Project Update – Plans to replace infrastructure and improve safety and walkability along First Ave. Additional goals include connecting Downtown West and North Loop neighborhoods. The team presented their proposed plan but will continue to refine concept through 2025. Anticipating layout approval in November 2025 with construction starting 2028.
- b. Safety+Livability - No current updates.
- c. Other Committee Updates
 - i. Committee member Marshall Hall has not been in attendance for the last four meetings and has not responded to any recent communications.
 - ii. **Ingebritson calls for a motion to remove Marshall Hall from the Planning +Zoning Committee. Crary makes a motion, Morse seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.**
- 9. Communications - Binkley, Odenthal
 - a. Data Management Database Update - Binkley, Raymond
 - i. Continuing to make additional updates to standardize data entry
 - b. August Communication Report was briefly reviewed. See report for further details.
- 10. Civic Engagement - Johnson
 - a. Ward 5 City Council Forum (Sept 3 - Lorraine B Smaller Park)
 - b. Ward 3 City Council Form (Sept 18 - River Hub Graco Park)
- 11. Parks + Public Art Subcommittee Report - Crary, Morse, Raymond
 - a. North Loop Art Fair - December 4th and 5th in Itasca Event Space
 - i. Artists can purchase a 6x8 space at the event for \$50, and proceeds will go to Art From The Inside.
 - ii. NLNA not currently assisting with artist recruitment as only 20 spots are available; however, Parks+Public Art Subcommittee has committed to help with promotion of the event.
 - b. Pickleball in the Park Event
 - i. Subcommittee is continuing to help support volunteer recruitment.
 - c. Community Toolbox
 - i. Currently melted. Park Board has agreed to fix the toolbox, but timing of this is uncertain. Woller recommended submitting an insurance claim for the tools. Crary will follow up on the process for this.
 - d. Dog Park Update
 - i. No major updates on sale of property. Continuing to work with Highway Team to consider a new dog park under the viaduct.
 - e. Hennepin Tree Canopy Program - \$7500 grant award received. This will go towards tree planting activities for next year.
 - f. Service Saturday - September 13th
 - g. Tree Updates: Raymond planning to do inventory in September.
- 12. The next meeting will be September 24th, 2025.
- 13. **Merrifield calls for a motion to adjourn. Woller makes a motion, Morse seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The Board adjourns at 7:30 PM