



North Loop Neighborhood Association
July Board Meeting
Date: 07/30/2025
Time 6:00pm
Itasca Building
[Zoom](#) Link

1. 11 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, David Crary, Andrew Morse, Grant Johnson, Jeff Vranicar, Louis Raymond, Ali Odenthal, Scott Woller, Cristy Blake, Mary Milla Binkley (virtual).
 - a. Guests in attendance: Suzanne Murphy, Eli Sherman; Xcel Energy Communications Team; Henri Jarvenin, Assistant to CM Rainville; Michael Rainville, Ward 3;
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:02 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the July meeting agenda. Morse makes a motion, Crary seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
4. Neighborhood Engagement
 - a. Henri Jarvenin, Ward 3
 - i. Discussed plans to sit down with Public Works, Traffic Control, and Rideshare groups to set up pick up zones in North Loop. Focusing on 5th-7th Ave based on heat map data.
 - ii. North Loop Encapement Update - City is connecting with regulatory services and have been monitoring the encapement site. No activity currently
 - iii. NLNA's HERRC letter was received. No additional updates at this time.
 - b. Xcel Energy Communications Team
 - i. If moving forward, the Blue Line Metro extension construction will disrupt two Xcel Energy lines on 10th Ave. These will need to be relocated
 1. If extension project moves forward, Xcel will hold a formal open house in September to get community input.
 - a. Plan to discuss with neighborhoods, park members, and city council members to take cultural and historical context into account.
 - b. New routes would be decided Summer 2026 and construction would continue block-by-block for two years. Surrounding residents and businesses will be updated as progress is made.
 2. No historic sites or city operations should be disrupted.
 3. Project will be funded by Xcel Energy given the need for eventual upgrades to these lines regardless. Funding will come from rate payor dollars (Xcel customers).
 - ii. Next steps: Blue Line extension decision will come in August, Xcel will move forward based on this.

5. Finance Report - Vranicar
 - a. Vranicar presented the balance sheet and income statement for review by the board. Requested Square invoicing report from Woller.
 - b. Discussion was had around the possibility of funding an activity to further engage Planning+Zoning subcommittee members. Once further finalized, this would require more discussion and board approval.
6. Data Management Database Update - Morse, Raymond
 - a. Working to standardized mass email language.
7. Community Engagement - Woller, Binkley
 - a. National Night Out - Woller, Binkley
 - i. Event scheduled for August 5th. 1,400 currently engaged on Facebook with 370 shares, expecting large attendance.
 - ii. Volunteer form going out later this week via Binkley.
 - iii. Odenthal to pick up pizzas with Woller and Morse coordinating set up activities.
 - b. Food Truck Fair - Woller, Binkley, Blake
 - i. 31 food trucks have paid registration fee, and 25 permits have been secured. Approximately 10 non-food vendors have registered.
 - ii. All rental items have been obtained with plan delivery on Friday.
 - iii. 3rd Street Park will be fenced off with orange snow fencing. 5 corn hole games and 100 picnic blankets will be provided.
 - iv. Volunteers: 15 for set up with plenty of volunteers throughout the day. Will need 10 for take down, volunteer Google Form is being resent.
 - v. Marketing materials are being printed. All food trucks have received digital marketing kits. Binkley to use Stone Arch Festival social media as a template to promote the event.
 - vi. Funding application update provided by Blake. Able to request half of event budget, \$16,500 requested.
8. Business Engagement - Blake, Crary
 - a. Business Social Event at Graze Food Hall was well-attended. Discussed plans to establish an annual schedule and consider tracking attendance.
 - b. NLNA Business Council Update
 - i. Motto would be "Get down to Business"
 - ii. Goals to promise quarterly meet-and-greet events, attendance at NLNA Annual Meetings, connecting business leaders to civic leaders, explore shopping opportunities in North Loop, and connect like-minded businesses. Additional goals include speak with a unified voice for the North Loop and develop a Neighborhood Shopping Guide.
 - iii. NLNA Neighborhood Coordinator Position:
 1. Main responsibility would be to manage "back end" administrative duties, including database and website management, Zoom management, and invoicing.
 2. Would report to one North Loop Board Member - will require additional discussion.
 3. Required attendance at NLNA Annual Meeting as well as attendance at Board Meetings once per quarter.
 4. Stressed importance of Board Members/subcommittee members/volunteers continuing to run NLNA activities.
 - a. **Crary makes a motion to approve the proposed job description, Vranicar seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - iv. Next steps: Develop a plan to sell council memberships to the business committee.

10. Planning + Zoning Subcommittee Report - Ingebrigtsen, Johnson

a. Approvals

- i. 501 Royalston is requesting approval for two signs signage. Additional information was requested regarding the proposed digital sign prior to approval.
- ii. Bellecour requesting approval for an on-site liquor license until 2:00 AM for weddings, banquets, etc but mainly for dinner services. No approvals for live music or entertainment requested.

1. Ingebrigtsen calls for a motion to approve the requests. Woller makes a motion, Blake seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

b. Metro Blue Line Update - team is gathering community input on the design of Metro stations

c. Safety+Livability

- i. Working to develop and update North Loop History & Walking Tour with Binkley. Hoping to debut handouts for this at the Food Truck Fair.
- ii. Discussed status of current members, may consider removing some members from the subcommittee based on low attendance.

d. Other Subcommittee Updates

- i. Committee is working to further develop the goals and responsibilities of the committee. Planning to get values/goals/interests on paper to better execute the committee's vision.

11. Communications - Binkley, Odenthal

a. Minneapolis DID Roudtable Report - Binkley

- i. 10 people in attendance. Group can now get input from residents and are wondering how their service can be valuable. Further discussion is needed once services are active.
- ii. Discussion was had around the group's assistance with trash, late night traffic, landscaping. NLNA wants to maintain the grassroots mentality of the area.

b. Zoom Minutes - Odenthal

- i. Reviewed that Zoom recording and transcription is set up for Board Meetings and Subcommittee meetings. Will continue to define workflow and processes as more experience is gained. Odenthal to work with subcommittees on best practices for their meeting minutes.

12. Civic Engagement - Johnson

a. Reviewed process for reporting downed trees. Per Jarvenin, reports should be emailed to 311.

b. Ward 5 City Countil Forum (Sept 3 - Lorraine B Smaller Park)

- i. Posted article on the website. Binkley is planning to include in newsletter

c. Ward 3 City Council Form (Sept 18 - River Hub Graco Park)

- i. Will be included in Sept newsletter, similarly to Ward 5.

13. Parks + Public Art Subcommittee Report - Crary, Morse, Raymond

a. 3rd St Park Update: \$600,000 funding approval received. Construction will start in Spring 2026, if not latter. High level Master Plan for park has been approved.

b. Tree Grant Update: Approved for \$325,000 towards tree canopy pogram. An additional \$10,000 was received for new trees around James Rick Park.

c. Service Saturday - August 9th

- i. Currently conflicts with Parks Board pickball tournament. Parks Board is wondering about engaging NLNA to recruit volunteers. Additional discussion surrounding the event is needed.

d. Tree Updates: Frequent rainfall has been helping to maintain trees. Raymond planning to do inventory in September. No beautification dollars spent at this time.

14. The next meeting will be August 28th, 2025.

15. Merrifield calls for a motion to adjourn. Morse makes a motion, Raymond seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously. The Board adjourns at 8:00 PM.