



**NORTH  
LOOP**  
NEIGHBORHOOD

---

**North Loop Neighborhood Association  
December Board Meeting**

**Date: 12/03/2025**

**Time 6:00pm**

**Itasca Building**

[Zoom Link](#)

1. 11 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, Andrew Morse, Louis Raymond, Ali Odenthal, Scott Woller, Cristy Blake, Mary Milla Binkley, Jeff Vranicar, Kyle Ingebrigtsen, David Crary, and Grant Johnson.
2. Guests in attendance: Abdirashid Warsame, Twin Cities International School Representative; Gwen, Redwell Resident & Community Member.
3. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:01 pm
4. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Morse makes a motion, Vranicar seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
5. Neighborhood Engagement
  - a. Abdirashid Warsame, Twin Cities International School Representative
    - i. Voiced concerns about the Blue Line Extension as this will likely impact the school. Community hearing opportunities were reviewed. NLNA encouraged him to connect with the new Ward 5 Council member, Pearl Warren, following her inauguration.
6. Finance Report - Vranicar
  - a. Vranicar presented the balance sheet and income statement for review by the board.
  - b. Discussed upcoming Equitable Engagement Funds meeting with city staff scheduled in the coming weeks.
  - c. Merrifield and Vranicar plan to meet to review the 2025 budget and discuss the 2026 budget.
7. Chair Updates – Merrifield
  - a. Year-End Review / Accomplishments – All
    - i. Raymond has upcoming partnership with MPS Parks for work at the 3rd St Park
  - b. Dec/Jan – Meeting Schedule
    - i. Parks and Public Art Subcommittee will be holding an ad hoc Zoom meeting in December with MPS Parks. No calendar additions at this time.
    - ii. Planning and Zoning Subcommittee will cancel December meeting with plans to restart the usual meeting schedule in January, pending any urgent needs.
    - iii. Board Meeting - Annual meeting is scheduled for January. **Woller called for a motion to approve the December Board Minutes via email. Crary makes a motion, Morse seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
  - c. Board Elections for 2026
    - i. One candidate nomination received
8. Community Engagement - Woller
  - a. Annual Meeting
    - i. Reviewed Community Engagement Report
    - ii. January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 is final planning meeting for Annual Meeting

- iii. SWAG stuffing on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- iv. Making pocket calendar for 2026 events to include in SWAG bags
- b. Board Culture Meeting Feb 4<sup>th</sup>
  - i. Crary will host
  - ii. Will plan to follow up on previous meeting materials from last summer's culture meeting

#### 9. Business Engagement - Blake

- a. Business "Collaborative" Update / Annual Meeting Event
  - i. Looking to find sponsorship dollars for hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the Annual Meeting Business Social. Planning to reach out to those businesses who are already registered to host a table to see if they are willing to contribute.
  - ii. If unable to raise enough to cover the costs of these, **Crary calls for a motion to allocate \$500 for this. Woller makes a motion, Blake seconds. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
  - iii. Working to approach local businesses for Business Collaborative Membership. Ingebrigtsen has agreed to oversee this. **Crary makes a motion to include a one-time, 40% commission payment during the first year of the program for any NLNA board member who facilitates a membership from a local business. From there, Christie Rock Hantge will coordinate subsequent invoicing and billing. Morse seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
- b. CEAP application for Food Truck Fair
  - i. Received approximately \$2,600 from this application for the North Loop Food Truck Fair operations. Many of the qualifying items were paid for by Jester Concepts and could not be covered through this application. Appreciation noted for Blake's hard work on this application.

#### 10. Planning + Zoning Subcommittee Report - Ingebrigtsen

- a. Watershed Spa planning to open in Bev's Wine Bar previous location
  - i. Historic building, modifying some of the exterior with an indoor/outdoor pool.
  - ii. NLNA Letter of Support approved unanimously by board via email
- b. Dakota Packaging Building on Third
  - i. Architecture firm is moving into building, looking to refinish and repaint the front of the building and make window improvements.
  - ii. NLNA Letter of Support approved unanimously by board via email
- c. Sable Building
  - i. Looking to create two retail concepts: Flower Bar and Gelato Shop
  - ii. Requesting second double door insert with a step and ramp
  - iii. **Ingebrigtsen calls for a motion to provide a letter of support for these modifications. Crary makes a motion, Johnson seconds. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
- d. Star Tribune Printing Plant Updates - Crary
  - i. A broker has not yet been hired. Crary will continue to monitor and follow up once this is established. Will put an ask to have the brokerage present plans for the space at one of NLNA's meetings, possibly around April.
- e. Safety+Livability Update – Johnson
  - i. Given the winter weather, Merrifield requested that Johnson inquire about snow management for the bridges over the railroad tracks.

11. Communications - Binkley

- a. Review of recent social media metrics shows that the Downtown Council's Instagram page has been sharing North Loop business posts frequently.
- b. Binkley and Merrifield met with the new Ward 5 Council member, Pearl Warren. She is enthusiastic about working with the neighborhood and plans to regularly attend Board Meetings.
- c. Not-A-Map Updates and Printing Schedule
  - i. Feedback is that guide is overwhelming - getting estimates from May Advertising about updating previously used "postcard" with less categories for shop patrons. Will have numbers for 2026
- d. Speakers Bureau
  - i. Continuing to present at various residences. Binkley recently presented at the 5th Ave building. and has plans to present at the Rock Island and Whitney Square buildings in the near future.

12. Civic Engagement - Johnson/Crary

- a. Metro Transit Resource Packages – Crary
  - i. Delivered and completed 200 kits. Accepted by Metro Transit Police.
  - ii. Included hat, neck warmer, gloves, socks, toothbrush, soap kit, comb, sanitary products, towel, snacks, hand warmers, and social services resources in the North Loop.
- b. Avivo Village Donation Drive
  - i. Agreed to move forward with donation drive at the annual meeting
  - ii. Will need a table for annual meeting

12. Parks + Public Art Subcommittee Report - Morse, Raymond

- a. Dog Park Update – Crary
  - i. Current location will remain operational through at least January 30th, 2026. Crary plans to follow up on January 1st, 2026.
  - ii. Crary sent a letter to Commissioner Shaffer and Superintendent to ask that the MPLS Park Board investigate a new location for the dog park. This letter was required to move forward with evaluating new dog park locations.
- b. Parks 2025/26 – 3rd Street Park/River Parkway Park Development
  - i. Continued Buckthorn removal, River Parkway looked good at the end of the fall season.
- c. James Rice Park Toolbox - Crary
  - i. Old toolbox has been removed and replaced with a new one. Tools have not been replaced as of yet.
- d. Trees – Raymond
  - i. Raymond provided a detailed final report to the board for review. No funds required for watering this year given watering the rainy weather. Overall tree health is trending upward.

13. The next meeting will be January 28th, 2026.

**Merrifield calls for a motion to adjourn. Woller makes a motion, Morse seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The Board adjourns at 7:18 PM.