

**Parks & Public Art Committee
August 13, 2025 Meeting Notes**

**Committee Members Present: Andrew Morse, David Crary, Louis Raymond, Grant Johnson, Jan Elftmann
Absent: Patty Connelly**

Guests: Lori Burks re: North Loop Art Fair, Maurice Ward, City Council Ward 5 Candidate

Meeting was called to order at 6:10pm

City Council Candidate: Maurice Ward, Ward 5 City Council candidate wanted to introduce himself and learn more about the NLNA. The committee explained we're just a subset of the larger board, so Maurice was invited to attend the August Board of Directors meeting.

North Loop Art Fair: Guest Lori Burks, a local pottery artist, asked for NLNA support for an art fair at the Itasca Event Gallery in December. Lori is the Volunteer Coordinator for Art from the Inside, which teaches art to incarcerated men. The committee agreed to promote the event through the NLNA website and social media channels.

3rd Street Park: The Minneapolis Park Board approved \$850,000 for 3rd Street Park. The group discussed pursuing a master plan for James Rice Park and explored the possibility of creating a new dog park under a freeway viaduct. They also received a \$7,500 grant from Hennepin County Canopy Trust to support reforestation efforts, with plans to continue work on the Mississippi park master plan in the spring.

Tree Planting: Louis discussed the success of tree plantings in the area, noting a 75% success rate compared to the typical 50% success rate of other planting efforts. They highlighted the importance of selecting appropriate tree species and nurturing them properly.

Toolbox fire: David discussed options to restore the toolbox that was damaged in a fire, estimating a total cost of around \$500 for sandblasting and painting.

Sidewalk hazard: Grant discussed concerns about a crumbling sidewalk along the Mississippi River, which he has reported to 311, but the barricades aren't coming down as requested.

Service Saturday: August riverfront cleanup was canceled due to rain. Due to the loss of tools in the fire, the group decided against a September riverfront project. Instead, Andrew proposed supporting the Park Board by helping recruit volunteers for a Pickleball in the Park event. David also mentioned coordinating with Ecolab for a volunteer event in September, which will require providing bags, gloves, and garbage pickers.

Gallery Walk: Jan Elftmann confirmed the participating galleries for the Sept. 27 fall walk.

Wrapped Utility Boxes: The group discussed Mollie's efforts to wrap neighborhood utility boxes with art, noting that it spruces up streets and reduces graffiti. Andrew will reach out to Francesco about possible funding for the project.