



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

Board of Directors Agenda
February 25, 2026, 6pm
Itasca Event Gallery, 701 1st St. N

- 1.8 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Diane Merrifield, Andrew Morse (virtual), Louis Raymond, Ali Odenthal, Mary Binkley, Kyle Ingebrigtsen, David Crary, and Caroline Blackford. Scott Woller, Jeff Vranicar, and Gwen Hollins absent.
 - a. Guests in attendance: Jean and Christian, Zero Waste Initiative; Fernando Burga; University of Minnesota; Henry Jarvin; Representing Michael Rainville, Ward 3 Councilmember.
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 6:01 pm
3. **Merrifield calls for a motion to approve the February meeting agenda. Crary makes a motion, Raymond seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
4. Election of board officers
 - a. **Merrifield makes a motion to elect Binkley NLNA Board President. Crary seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - b. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Crary NLNA Board Vice President. Merrifield seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - c. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Odenthal NLNA Board Secretary. Raymond seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - d. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Vranicar NLNA Board Treasurer. Ingebrigtsen seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
5. Election of Committee chairs + Committee members
 - a. **Binkley makes a motion to approve Merrifield and Fernando Burga to the Planning & Zoning Committee. Ingebrigtsen seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - b. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Merrifield as co-chair of the Planning & Zoning Committee. Raymond seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - c. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Crary and Morse as Parks & Public Art co-chairs. Odenthal seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - d. **Binkley makes a motion to elect Ingebrigtsen as chair of Business Engagement. Merrifield seconds the motion. The board passes the**

motion unanimously.

6. Neighborhood Engagement

a. CM Rainville – Provided virtually by Henry Jarvin. CM Warren invited but not in attendance.

- CM Rainville’s office would like to organize a progressive dinner type event for Summer 2026 and is requesting input/feedback from the board. Board is supportive of this. Suggested possibility of traveling cocktails, ticketed event with special food/drink, free parking options. Business Engagement committee will work to obtain additional input from neighborhood businesses.

b. Zero Waste Initiative – Christian, Jean, and Professor Fernando Burga

- NLNA has been trying to identify ways to redirect HERC operations. UMN Student Group has been investigating ways to get a neighborhood to be “Zero Waste” and is interested in piloting this in the North Loop given our proximity to HERC, prior commitments from Hennepin County, and strong neighborhood association presence. Would like to begin this by project mapping and collecting data on neighborhood water streams. Asking for NLNA’s support with promotion and communication assistance.
- Crary proposes a four-point resolution supporting the project, available for review upon request, along with providing a letter of support for the project. **Crary makes a motion to approve these items. Ingebrigtsen seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**

7. Board Reports

a. Finance Report: Jeff Vranicar, Treasurer

- Deferred financial review as Vranicar is absent. Will review at March Board Meeting.

b. Business Engagement:

- March 6 Business Summit: Crary/Ingebrigtsen/Binkley
 - 10 businesses have signed up, will be a time to provide discussion and brainstorm. Plan to pitch a collaborative marketing campaign.
- NLNA partnering with Meet Minneapolis - \$250 cost as a Non-Profit organization. Will allow access to webinars and convention opportunities that can be shared with neighborhood businesses. **Crary makes a motion to approve this expense. Binkley seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
- Discussion of starting TikTok account for NLNA. Blackford to manage.

c. Planning +Zoning

- Rabbit Hole sign: Merrifield
 - Rabbit Hole team is proposing to reduce the sign brightness from 100% to 20% and limit sign hours from 4:00-11:00 PM. Also

considering a pilot program so neighborhood could give feedback. Additional discussion to occur.

8. Community Engagement:

a. Annual Meeting recap

- Connecting with all the “Say Yes” volunteers: Binkley
 - Sending postcards to newly engaged participants from meeting to further engage.
- March newsletter: Answering the Qs from the Meeting

b. Candy Grab: Budget \$1000 for candy

- Woller asking for approval of \$1000 for candy (although still searching for sponsorship opportunities. **Crary makes a motion to approve this spending. Raymond seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**

c. Rent Relief: Binkley looking to including donation links to Powderhorn and Whittier rent relief funds in March newsletter. Board approves this unanimously.

9. Parks and Public Art: Crary, Morse, Raymond

a. Dog Park

- February 3rd community meeting was well-received. Next steps are connecting MNDOT and Parks Dept for further discussion.

b. Third Street Park Groundbreaking:

- Pushed to September 2026 as there is a need to do additional soil studies.

c. Toolbox Painting:

- Total cost was \$1,300, initially projected to be \$1000 but this did not include painting both the inside and outside of toolbox. Crary asking for additional \$300 reimbursement to cover costs. **Binkley makes a motion to approve this expense. Ingebrigtson seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**

10. Administrative Items

a. Google folder use: Odenthal

- Planning to utilize Google Drive folders for submission, review, and storage of Board Reports, Agendas, and Minutes. Reviewed instructions for this.

b. Zoom vs. Microsoft Teams: Odenthal/Binkley

- Investigating Zoom vs Teams vs Google Meet to expand use of AI in notetaking.

c. Working with NLNA Coordinator (Hantge-Rock): Binkley

- Available for board support, requesting one week’s notice for any requests.

d. Review of NLNA email monitoring:

- info@ - Binkley/Odenthal/Hantge-Rock
- business@ - Raymond

- volunteer@ - Morse
- livability@ - Hollins

11. Important Dates:

- a. 3/14 Litter Pick Up
- b. 3/28 Egg Stuffing
- c. 4/4 Candy Grab
- d. 4/23 Event brainstorm

12. **Binkley calls for a motion to adjourn. Ingebrigtson makes a motion, Crary seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.** The Board adjourns at 7:32 PM.