



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Planning + Zoning Committee June 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Time 6:00 pm**

1. 9 of 13 committee members were present: Jo Vos, Diane Merrifield, Matt Sharkey-Smith, Neal Reardon, Mollie Scozzari, Missy Rotterdam, Alice Eichholz, Matt Bruns, and Fernando Burga.
 - a. Committee members absent: Frederick Dawes, Grant Johnson, David Miller, and Francesco Parisi (leave of absence)
 - b. Guests: Mary Binkley, NLNA President; Alex Humphries, Dave's Hot Chicken; Rikk Grant, David Rill, Nicolas George, and Cory Lovern, Puttshack; and Amanda Preisler and Brian Anderson, Thielen & Green.
2. Committee called to order at 6:05 pm by Vos.
3. April 2026 minutes and June 2026 agenda approved by committee members.
4. **Dave's Hot Chicken, Application for Extended Hours License, 548 N Washington Avenue, Suite 221**
 - a. Alex Humphries presented on behalf of Dave's Hot Chicken, requesting an extension of weekend hours from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, noting strong late-night momentum and no prior issues with safety or security.
 - b. Given the increased amount of neighborhood trash resulting largely from the late-night club scene, committee members questioned Humphries about how he would address trash concerns.
 - c. Some committee members thought that this might alleviate the traffic in the neighborhood at 2 am since not all club visitors would be leaving at the same time.
5. **Puttshack: Addition of Outdoor Dining, 700 N 3rd Street**
 - a. Nicolas George presented a proposal for a sidewalk cafe at Puttshack, detailing plans to add 16 outdoor tables and 54 chairs on along both Third Avenue and Seventh Street in front of the establishment.
 - b. Puttshack already holds an On-Sale Liquor License from the City of Minneapolis and is looking to expand its alcohol service area to include a sidewalk café. The

sidewalk café would be open from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and 11:00 am to 10:00 pm Friday through Sunday.

- c. The committee raised concerns about ADA compliance, particularly regarding the narrow clearance on Seventh Street, with Vos expressing concerns about wheelchair accessibility and the placement of bike racks.
- d. Committee members agreed that, while the Third Street layout appeared acceptable, the Seventh Avenue design needed modification, potentially by changing the larger tables to smaller two- or three-person tables or positioning the chairs differently to improve accessibility and reduce space requirements.
- e. Puttshack plans to address ADA concerns with the city in an upcoming hearing scheduled for late July or early August; Vos suggested offering multiple alternatives to comply with ADA requirements to city officials.
- f. Finally, Reardon raised concerns about dead boulevard trees in front of the restaurant and recommended working with the property manager to request larger tree replacements from the Minneapolis Park Board.

6. Pop-Up Bagels: HPC Application, Interior Building and Window Modifications to Accommodate Pop-Up Bagels, 227 N 1st Street, Saxon Building

- a. Dan DeQuisto and Amanda Preisler, representing Pop-Up Bagels, discussed plans to open a New York-style bagel shop in the ground floor) of the Saxton building between Bellacore and Solidcore (facing 3rd Avenue).
- b. The bagel shop would operate as a grab-and-go establishment with no indoor seating. The proposal includes plans for 2-3 outdoor high-top tables and illuminated signage. The shop would offer five bagel flavors and three cream cheese varieties daily.
- c. No changes would be made to the building's exterior except for replacing 6 transom windows on 2nd floor with glazed louvre-type windows to address ventilation concerns for the bakery itself. Plans also call for a non-illuminated blade sign beside the door.
- d. Pop-Up Bagels plans to submit an application for a building permit by the end of the week, with construction starting mid-July and a projected opening in late September or early October.
- e. Committee members noted that the shop would fill vacant space in that portion of the Saxon Building facing 3rd Avenue North, further activating this very walkable part of the neighborhood.

7. Committee Actions

- a. **Dave's Hot Chicken:** The Planning and Zoning Committee unanimously passed a Motion of Conditional Support for extending Friday and Saturday weekend hours from 2 am to 3 am. This support is contingent upon Dave's Hot Chicken putting a trash receptacle on its patio.
- b. **Puttshack:** Committee members unanimously passed a Motion of Support for Puttshack's plans for outdoor dining.
- c. **Pop-Up Bagels:** Committee members unanimously approved a Motion of Support with no conditions.

6. Old Business

- a. Members discussed Rabbit Hole's upcoming HPC meeting on July 7th and noted that extensive correspondence with the city and Rabbit Hole has been documented.
- b. The committee also addressed utility box coverage efforts and discussed new focus areas for community development,
- c. Members also discussed focusing on the Root District/Royalston area and Star Tribune site. Merrifield shared contacts from her meeting with Shannon Fitzgerald about potential development opportunities in the Root District.
- d. Regarding the Root District/West Loop/Royalston area, members agreed to maintain a list of approximately 20 stakeholders as a subcommittee rather than holding formal meetings. Reardon suggested monitoring the situation without taking a specific position, focusing on keeping property owners engaged about development opportunities and public realm improvements related to the upcoming light rail opening next spring. Reardon offered to share a 12-year-old city report he completed about repositioning the farmer's market, which had never been implemented.

7. Committee Reports/Focus Areas

- a. Transit: The committee discussed several development and transit projects in the neighborhood. Bruns presented updates on the light rail project, including its 90% design phase with a budget of \$3.58 billion and potential for \$752 million in federal funding.
- b. Members discussed opportunities to advocate for additional crosswalks, traffic lights, and pedestrian safety improvements along the transit routes, particularly near Washington Avenue and 8th Street.
- c. Members also addressed concerns about boulevard tree maintenance and the need for better public realm design, noting that Metro Transit's installation might provide an opportunity for better outcomes than previous city installations.

8. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2026.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.