



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

August 26, 2026; 6 to 7pm

1. 11 of 11 Board Members in attendance: Mary Binkley, Matt Bruns, David Crary, Gwen Hollins, Kyle Ingebrigtsen, Diane Merrifield, Andrew Morse, Ali Odenthal, Louis Raymond, Jeff Vranicar, and Scott Woller.
 - a. Guests in Attendance: Christian Balden, Zero-Waste Organizer; Fernando Burga, NLNA Planning+Zoning Subcommittee; 3 neighborhood residents
2. Meeting is called to order by Binkley at 6:00 pm.
3. **Binkley calls for a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Crary makes a motion, Merrifield seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
4. P+Z Letter of No Action re: Data Center (**vote required**) – Merrifield/Bruns
 - a. On August 19, 2026, the Planning and Zoning Committee passed a Motion of No Action on Legacy Investing's application for a Conditional Use Permit for a data center on the former Star Tribune printing press site due to the lack of meaningful information from the developer. Furthermore, the committee is asking that the City Planning Commission delay its hearing on Legacy's application so that P + Z can gather needed information, answer community questions, and vote on the application at its next regularly scheduled meeting on September 23rd.
 - b. **Binkley calls for a motion to approve the Planning+Zoning's Letter of No Action. Merrifield makes a motion, Raymond seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
 - c. Binkley read a statement from CM Michael Rainville clarifying that City Council Members are prohibited from commenting on Land Use Applications, like the one for the data center. The statement also included news that Mr. Rainville and his family have received threats in connection with the data center issue.

5. July Financials – Vranicar

- a. Itasca Event rental for Community Workshops invoice (**vote required**)
 - i. **Binkley calls for a motion to approve the budget to pay for Itasca Event Rental Space for community workshops (\$1000). Woller makes a motion, Vranicar seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
- b. Vranicar presented the balance sheet and income statement for review by the board.

6. Community Engagement – Woller

- a. Guest Speaker: Kaisha Tracy, Youable
 - i. Speaker unable to attend NLNA Board Meeting tonight. Woller is working to encourage local businesses to introduce themselves at Board Meetings to increase exposure and collaboration.
- b. National Night Out wrap-up
 - i. Well-received. May consider new entertainment options outside of movies in the future.
- c. September Pop-Up Picnic
 - i. Scheduled for September 9th. Third Street Park will still be available for this event.
- d. Halloween Event
 - i. Considering an afternoon event at North Loop Green.
 - ii. **Woller makes a motion to budget up to \$1,600 for this event. Crary seconds the motion. The board passes the motion unanimously.**
- e. NL Annual Meeting Planning Meeting –
 - i. Planning to begin for this event. Binkley will send out her availability and coordinate with Woller to schedule planning meetings.

7. Parks + Public Art – Crary/Morse

- a. Zero Waste launch report – Christian Balden, Clean Water Fund
 - i. Great engagement at August 22nd Launch Event. Discussed pilot programs and additional opportunities with attendees.
 - ii. Connected with 5th Avenue Lofts, Borealis, North Loop Green, and League of Women Voters for additional collaboration.

- iii. Balden and his team were not awarded funding from a Hennepin County grant but received helpful feedback on their application.
 - iv. Pursuing additional funding sources for support.
 - b. Dog Park closure/new location update – Crary
 - i. Dog Park will officially close in September, NLNA has not received an official date for this yet. Construction is planned to begin in September as well.
 - 1. Will post fliers to update residents starting September 1st.
 - ii. Crary is in contact with involved state agencies for approval and is working with MPRB for their final approval and messaging. Highway department is going to lease property to park board for 20 years. Timeline is still in development, but completion is planned for next summer.
 - c. Service Saturday September project – Morse
 - i. Soliciting volunteers for MPRB Pickleball on the Parkway event.
 - ii. Deferring a major planting event this year.
 - iii. Planning bulb-planting event for October
 - iv. Considering collaboration with Lake State Mountaineering “On The Water” cleanup projects.
 - d. MPLS Parks league
 - i. Hosting Bocce Ball leagues at James Rice Park – encouraging neighborhood involvement via social media.
 - e. Subcommittee was approached by an outside committee looking to add more digital signage to downtown.
 - i. PPA recommending no further action or engagement from NLNA, board members agree.
 - f. Stormwater Drain Art – Raymond
 - i. Hollins and Raymond meeting with additional stakeholders
 - ii. Coming with plans for Bassett Creek tunnel for further art opportunities
- 8. Business Engagement – Ingebrigtsen
 - a. Business Collab
 - i. Early bird pricing has closed for Business Collaborative membership.
 - 1. 21 Businesses enrolled, welcome packages are being sent out.
 - ii. Business Collaborative is being promoted via social media and NLNA events.

- iii. Creating one-page marketing materials to continue to promote enrollment
- b. Keys to the Loop
 - i. Planning to launch at 2027 Annual Meeting
 - ii. Soliciting interested businesses to participate
- c. Corporate/Weddings Subcommittee
 - i. Hosted multiple meetings about event promotion.
 - ii. 21 businesses reported interest.
 - iii. Continuing to source input for resource guides
- d. Open Loop: Gym Edition
 - i. Scheduled for Sept 26th 12-3 PM
 - ii. Building off Open Loop Real Estate and Paws in the Loop
 - iii. Multiple gyms interested, seeking input for hours and marketing.
 - 1. Exploring giveaway options

9. Communications – Binkley

- a. Binkley asking for NLNA Volunteer Hours for Q2 via email by August 31st.

10. Binkley calls for a motion to adjourn. Morse makes a motion, Bruns seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

11. The Board adjourns at 6:40 PM.