



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Planning + Zoning Committee July 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes
Time 6:00 pm**

1. 10 of 13 committee members were present: Jo Vos, Diane Merrifield, Matt Sharkey-Smith, Neal Reardon, Mollie Scozzari, Missy Rotterdam, Alice Eichholz, Frederick Dawes, David Miller, and Matt Bruns.
 - a. Committee members absent: Grant Johnson, Fernando Burga, and Francesco Parisi (leave of absence)
 - b. Guests: Mary Binkley, NLNA President; Alex Humphries, Dave's Hot Chicken; Louise Neilson, Flight Club; Sequoia Rutan, Madigan, Dahl & Harlan, PA; Henry Jarvinon, Councilperson Rainville's Office; Ryan Kronzer and Kaja Vang, Metropolitan Transit; and Menno Schukking, City of Minneapolis.
2. Committee called to order at 6:05 pm by Vos.
3. June 2026 minutes and June 2026 agenda approved by committee members.
4. **Dave's Hot Chicken, Application for Extended Hours License, 548 N Washington Avenue**
 - a. At its June meeting, P + Z unanimously approved a motion supporting Dave's Hot Chicken's request to extend its Friday and Saturday closing time to 3 am, subject to the condition that the restaurant add and maintain an outdoor trash receptacle on its patio. A draft Letter of Conditional Support was then submitted to the NLNA Board of Directors for consideration at its June 24th meeting.
 - b. On June 24, 2026, the NLNA Board of Directors discussed Dave's Hot Chicken's request to extend its Friday and Saturday closing time from 2 am to 3 am. Board members raised concerns about potential security issues in the area after nearby bars and nightclubs close, particularly because MPD resources are typically redirected from the North Loop to the downtown entertainment district after 2 am. Some members also questioned whether allowing Dave's Hot Chicken to stay

open until 3 am could set a precedent for other food establishments, especially those that serve alcohol, to seek later hours, potentially increasing concerns about security, traffic, noise, and late-night loitering in the neighborhood. At the same time, board members did not want to create economic hardship for a small local business and emphasized their desire to support neighborhood businesses. As a result, the Board took no action on Mr. Humphries' request and instead asked him to return to P + Z to address its concerns.

- c. At its July 22nd meeting, Mr. Humphries said that operations such as theirs that stay open until 2 AM without serving alcohol differ from other establishments serving alcohol (like Black Sheep) that have reported issues with late-night customers. He explained that Dave's Hot Chicken uses crowd-control measures, including limiting seating areas and closing rear sections after midnight. At least one manager is always present, and managers are trained in de-escalation and will contact police if necessary. He said the restaurant would consider hiring security if police response times become a concern or offer takeout-only service from 2 am to 3 am to reduce loitering. However, the restaurant prefers to keep indoor service available because staff can better manage the environment. He added that late night customers are a very important source of revenue and that sales between 2 am and 3 am would help offset business expenses. Finally, Mr. Humphries indicated that, for a brief period after its initial opening, the restaurant operated beyond its 2 am licensed closing time. When he learned that his license called for a 2 am closing time, he immediately began closing earlier. Mr. Humphries noted, though, that for this brief period, the restaurant had no security problems with noisy or "unruly" patrons.

5. Flight Club: Application for Liquor License, 729 Washington Avenue North

- a. Louise Nielsen and Sequoia Rattan presented Flight Club's liquor license application for its new Minneapolis entertainment venue. Ms. Nielsen described the concept as tech-enabled social darts with craft cocktails and staff-served food. The venue, located near Freehouse, will employ about 40 people, play low-volume music, and will not offer outdoor food service.
- b. Although the venue plans to close at 11 pm Monday through Thursday, midnight on Friday and Saturday, and 10 pm on Sunday, it is requesting a 1 am on-sale liquor license to accommodate possible private events.

6. Blue Line Extension: Progress Report

- a. The committee received an update on the Blue Line Extension project from Ryan Kronzer and Kaja Vang, Metropolitan Transit; and Menno Schukking, City of Minneapolis. They detailed design changes, including new street connections, bike lanes, and traffic improvements along the route from Target Field to North Minneapolis.

- b. The project has a total budget of \$3.58 billion with funding coming from federal, state, and local sources, and construction is expected to begin next year after federal funding approval and property acquisition completion.
- c. Matt Bruns will continue to monitor the progress of the Blue Line Extension for the committee.

7. Committee Deliberations

- a. **Dave's Hot Chicken:** The committee discussed and unanimously approved a provisional six-month experiment for Dave's Hot Chicken to extend hours, with requirements for clear security presence and proper garbage management.
- b. **Flight Club:** Committee members expressed no concerns about granting the requested liquor license to Flight Club. Members felt that the bar/restaurant's overall plans fit well into the overall ambiance of Nordic Plaza. The committee passed a unanimous Motion of Support with no contingencies for issuing a 1 am on-sale liquor license with Sunday sales, including the outdoor patio, for Flight Club, located at 729 Washington Avenue North.

8. Miscellaneous Business

- a. Other topics discussed by the committee included updates on the Root District, upcoming community events, including the swap at Hewing Hotel, North Loop Field Day, Zero Waste Initiative launch, and National Night Out, and the arrival of new trash cans.

9. The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2026.

10. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.