



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes**

June 24, 2015

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Heritage Landing, 415 1st Street North

Attendees: Philip Ailiff, Dave Decker, David Frank, DJ Heinle, Bryan Hollaway, Fritz Kroll, JR Maddox, Diane Merrifield, Brent Nelson, Karen Lee Rosar, Scott Woller

Absent: None

- I. June Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
- II. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Board to approve the June Board Meeting Agenda.
- III. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the Board to approve the May 27, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes.
- IV. State Representative and Council Member Presentations:
 - State Representative Presentation – Representative Raymond Dehn
 - Representative Dehn (District 59B) indicated that the special session has wrapped up. He noted that no significant progress was made in the area of transportation and that Sunday alcohol sales had not passed (but Sunday growler sales were preserved). He indicated that the House is out of session until March, and that he will be available to address any questions or concerns in the meantime. He invited folks to attend a fundraiser event that will be held Monday, June 29 from 5:30-7:00 PM at Clubhouse Jager.
 - Council Member Presentation – Council Member Jacob Frey
 - Council Member Frey (3rd Ward) provided a brief update on the following:
 - a. The Commons (green space at the Viking's stadium) design process is complete, the vision has been unveiled, and fundraising will begin.
 - b. Nicollet Mall construction will begin soon. Traffic will be closed to the area for two years, and may provide an opportunity to consider possibilities for pedestrian-only street opportunities.
 - c. A potential historic designation has been proposed for a portion of Dinkytown, and will be discussed at the City Hall tomorrow.

- d. A (great) rock concert was held at the Scherer Brothers' site, which is an industrial site that has been underutilized.
- e. Council Member Frey strongly encouraged the developer of the 729 Washington Avenue development (Greco) to find a resolution with their neighbor's at 801 Lofts.
- f. Council Member Frey thanked the NLNA Board for their letter regarding Major League Soccer.

V. Finance Report – Brent Nelson

- Brent has developed a 1-page summary (condensed from the multi-page report he receives each month) to document the NLNA's monthly financial activity.
- End of May balances were: -\$2427.51 checking, \$8051.41 savings; total: \$5623.90
- NRP Phase II Allotment was \$251,626.50, with NRP Phase II Frozen Allotment at -\$99,571.83; total \$152,054.67 (No change from April)
- The following May spending was reported:
 - \$1679.50 Postage & Mailing for Annual Meeting
 - \$200 Accounting Fees
 - \$400 Website Fees
 - \$500 National Night Out

VI. Neighbor Comments:

- Downtown Families: Denise Holt provided an overview of this volunteer organization. A social event is being held on Sunday, June 28th at Target Field Plaza from 3-6pm, featuring music by MacPhail and a viewing of the movie *Despicable Me*. A funding request was made for the video board usage fee (\$350) and snack/beverage cart staff fee (\$150). A motion was made, second and approved for the total funding request in the amount of \$450.
- Lucid Brewing: Jon Messier provided a summary of their plan to extend Lucid's brewing operations to the North Loop, which would include a 100-person capacity taproom and brewery producing approximately 2000 barrels per year. Jon noted that the size of production may require a City variance, but that there are several precedents for approval of this size. He also noted that the Minnetonka location would remain in operation. Closing is scheduled for July 15 (Lucid will be leasing the space), with a tentative opening at the end of October. Hours of operation have not yet been determined, but the Board encouraged Jon to visit with the Planning & Zoning Committee as the plans develop.
- 801 Washington: Several representatives for 801 Lofts were in attendance to express their concerns – regarding the plans and the process - related to Greco's proposed development at 729 Washington Avenue. Specifically, the Home Owner's Association President commented that there is concern that the development will have adverse impact on residents at 801 Lofts, and that not enough neighborhood input had been sought or responded to by the developer, and that the project's scale is not within the context of the neighborhood. While it was noted that the development is within zoning regulations, the Board and Council Member Frey indicated that they will further encourage Greco to work 801 Lofts to find a solution / compromise.
- Renaissance on the River: Several residents from Renaissance on the River expressed concern over noise issues at the Paxon, whose outdoor amenity creates an 'amphitheater' of noise pollution affecting multiple units at Renaissance

on the River. The residents noted that music plays non-stop from noon to 10pm daily, regardless of whether anyone is occupying the space, and loud parties with music and screaming occur into the early morning hours (as late as 2AM-4AM), with no management on site in the evening. They noted that the police (311 and 911) had been called to the property several times, but that parties resume after police leave. The residents noted that the new ownership / management, Lincoln Properties Residential, have been unresponsive to their concerns. The residents were looking for help / suggestions on recourse. They were encouraged to call 311/911 (or use the 311 app) and use the same script for all complaints, to call Council Member Frey, and to connect with the Block Club at their next meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Marketing and Promotions – Scott Woller

- Scott presented t-shirt design options and pricing for North Loop t-shirts to be sold at events this summer. A discussion took place about identifying a storage (“home base”) location for the t-shirts, with Scott offering to store them initially. A motion was made, second, and approved to proceed with the purchase of 72 shirts for the ‘middle’ design, and 72 shirts of the ‘street car’ design, using the standard sizing recommendations, including a few children’s sizes.

B. North Loop Business Association – Scott Woller & Brent Nelson

- A business and parking meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 30th at 514 Studios.
- Brent will be meeting with *Be The Match* to introduce the North Loop neighborhood and its story to them. He also plans to assemble welcome bags for them once he’s had an initial conversation to determine the appropriate quantity. It was noted that funds have already been set aside for welcome bags.

C. Website Update – Diane Merrifield

- Diane indicated that May/April visits were up considerably at approximately 600-700 visits, with June following the same increased pattern. Many visitors are new, out-of-state visitors coming directly to the site (i.e. not via a search engine or another site).
- Five of the website’s ad spots were renewed June 1, with payments received; the other five spots will be available (some renewals) August 1.
- A discussion regarding Target Field Station/Plaza events and how to promote them on the website / social media took place. An alternate platform for the entire website, which would allow a calendar function and greater ease of use, will be investigated.

D. Planning & Zoning – Dave Decker

- The following presentations were made at the June 2015 Planning & Zoning Meeting:
 - Washington Avenue Traffic Counts: A study was conducted over a 4-day period to count pedestrian and bike crossings at Washington Avenue between 7th and 8th Streets. As a result of the study, a striped crosswalk will be added near 8th Street in mid-July. The Board

reiterated their concern that a signalized crosswalk is needed at this location. A meeting will be scheduled* and publicized to seek business and resident input prior to the start of the restriping work.

**Bryan will first contact Bob Byers to determine his availability.*

- Cameron Building – 756 N 4th Street: An update on Schafer Richardson's plan to re-develop an existing 4-story building was presented. The project consists of 44 units of affordable housing at 50% and 60% Area Median Income.
- Modist Brewing: A new brewery is being proposed at an 18,000 sq.ft. space at 505 North 3rd Street. It will consist of a brewhouse and 99-person capacity taproom. Modist Brewing has set-up a meeting with Bookmen Stacks on July 9th. A letter of support was requested, but due to low attendance at the P+Z meeting a vote was not held. The Board requested that further information be obtained on their parking plan prior to holding a vote regarding the letter of support.
- Target Field Plaza Programming: Chelsey Falzone provide a summary of the 2014/2015 events that were held / will be held at Target Field Plaza. They are looking to increase awareness of the events and will continue to work with the NLNA to find ways to promote events on the website and social media sites.
- Metro Transit Masterplan: A detailed summary of Metro Transit's plan for their Heywood campus was presented. Plans are being developed for a new Metro Transit Police Headquarters and bus garage for 180 to 200 buses. Funding is still needed for the projects, and Metro Transit will continue to provide updates to NLNA P+Z committee as plans progress.
- Committee Business:
 - Dinkytown Historic District: The Marcy Homes Neighborhood Association (MHNA) requested a letter of support from the NLNA regarding the proposed historic designation for a portion of Dinkytown. The Board requested that MHNA be invited to a P+Z meeting, so the Board can become better informed of the proposed designation.
- Please see the North Loop Neighborhood Association Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting notes from June 2015 for more information; notes are available on the NLNA website.

E. Livability– Fritz Kroll, Karen Lee Rosar, and David Frank

- Greening & Lighting Update: Fritz indicated that two areas for additional trees had previously been identified, which neighbors supported and the NLNA could fund; however, he's still encountering obstacles and will be focusing on determining why the resistance exists.
- 1st Avenue DID Pedestrian Project: the DID is looking at ways to make 1st Avenue more inviting between 4th and 6th, by widening the sidewalks and adding greenery. To do so, a reduction in parking stalls and modifications to the bike lane would likely be required.
- NL Park Update: David indicated that Katie Day will be sending out a Doodle poll to determine the best time for the next park meeting.

G. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff

- Crime is down; however there has been an increase in panhandling in the North Loop and along Nicollet Avenue, including several scams (claiming car has been impounded or woman indicating she's homeless and pregnant). Phil provided a reminder that panhandling is considered 'aggressive' if the individual steps off the curb and/or if they ask for money more than once, in any tone. 911 should be called by anyone encountering aggressive panhandling.
- A new director at 1010 Currie has been hired, and some services (currently serving 150 people/night) are planned to be discontinued.
- Extra police will be on duty for this weekend's Pride events. An unrelated pop-up park event - geared towards youth - will be held at 3rd Street S and Nicollet Mall on Saturday, June 27 a 4-9pm.
- The next Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is Wednesday, July 8th at 4-6pm in Room 333 of City Hall.
- The next Court Watch meeting is Friday, July 10th at 10 AM at the Minneapolis Public Library.
- The next Block Club meeting is Thursday, July 16th at 6pm at Dunn Bros. coffee.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Sustainability / Community Garden – Bryan Hollaway

- Bryan has prepared letters to developers and residents to encourage composting facilities at new and existing developments. The Board will review the letters and assist in determining how to distribute the letters.
- Bryan has been working on a community garden initiative. A site has not yet been found, but as a 'low-hanging fruit' alternative, 2-foot by 4-foot planters are proposed to be located where wider sidewalks occur (three locations in initial pilot project). Bryan found a concrete option, with multiple styles available, from Rochester Concrete which would cost \$3500 for three planters. Bryan was asked to share images with the Board. It was noted that: long-term plans for maintenance and removal need to be considered; other materials for the planter might be considered; and that planters occurring in the public right-of-way may require special permissions.

B. Revolving Loan Fund Update / Utilizing NRP Funds – J.R. Maddox.

- JR indicated that the initiative should be renamed 'Utilizing NRP Funds' as the revolving loan fund was discontinued due to a significant increase in fees.
- JR indicated that a set of guidelines has been established to promote neighborhoods to utilize unused NRP funds. Feedback can be given regarding the new guidelines, but JR indicated that the guidelines primarily affect groups without a Phase 2 plan in place and/or those with an old Phase 2 plan not in action. The NLNA has approximately two years before it would be impacted by the new guidelines; therefore it was recommended that focus be given to determining / prioritizing how to use the funds over the next few years.

C. Farmers Market Advisory Group Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Meeting was cancelled; No update.

D. 2020 Partners Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- May meeting was cancelled; Next meeting is July 28, 2015.

E. DNG Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Previous meeting was small meeting with some discussion related to soccer.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- None

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.