



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting Notes
September 25, 2013
7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Heritage Landing, 415 1st St N**

Attendees: Philip Ailiff, Dave Decker, Mike Faulk, David Frank, Matt Hilgart, Fritz Kroll, Karen Lee Rosar, Diane Merrifield, Scott Woller

Absent: DJ Heinle, JR Maddox

- I. September Board Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
- II. September Board Meeting Agenda Approved
- III. August 28, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes Approved
- IV. Finance Report – Mike Faulk
 - \$16,187.87 bank balance (\$700 paid out last month)
 - \$4800 in outstanding checks currently
 - CPP: \$16,844.03 approved, \$26,472.72 remaining
 - CPP 2014-2016 contract is pending; Mike will have more information by Oct 15 (watch for “strategic priority” email coming from Mike)
 - September 2013 Finance Report approved
- V. Neighbor Comments
 - 9 neighbors/local business owners/guests attended meeting
 - Owners of Tangiers attended meeting to introduce themselves, invite the Board and other neighbors down for drinks or a meal, share that they are very excited to be part of the North Loop neighborhood and open to any feedback and comments; in response to Phil’s question regarding accessibility, it is explained that there is an accessible entrance on the side of the building, but not the front of the building since it is historic; Karen suggests the owners visit the North Loop website and FB page to learn more about the neighborhood
 - Bill Woodson, neighbor and representative from the University of St. Thomas, offers student practicum opportunities for marketing and research for the North Loop Neighborhood Association if there is potential need for these services in the future; this is an opportunity for business students to make connections in the urban community to help understand the dynamics of urban living, and for the NL to benefit from this type of assistance; David thanks Bill for the very generous offer

- Owner of Jeromeo attended meeting to introduce new location at 250 Third Avenue North; Jeromeo sells multicultural art, antiques, and furniture at a variety of price points and offers yoga classes; Jeromeo will participate in the North Loop Tour
- Owner of Jeromeo also shares the new location for the Lorie Bookstore which is located next door

VI. Committee Reports

A. Marketing and Promotions – Explore the North Loop – Scott Woller

- Scott reports that the price of the event has been lowered to \$10; the first 30 to purchase tickets are invited to the after-party; an eclectic mix of approximately 20 apartment buildings and businesses have signed up to participate so far; as of 2 PM on Wed, Sept 25 – 10 tickets had been sold; good number of volunteers have signed up, but still need more; Scott asked that Board Members help with hanging posters; Insurance for event estimated at \$10,000 – Mike Faulk to follow up and confirm; a ticket, map, and code of conduct will be mailed out 5 days before event; event to take place October 13, 2013

B. Marketing and Promotions – Website – Diane Merrifield

- Diane reports that website is live, content continues to be added, and it is all going really well; Diane is fine with doing the postings – has not been a burden; Diane to work with Phil so he can include the Safety and Livability

C. Planning & Zoning – DJ Heinle & Dave Decker

- The following presentations were made at the September 2013 Planning & Zoning Meeting:
 - ✓ SWLRT Update by Sophia Ginis, Met Council Community Outreach Coordinator; to be a major hub in the NL; currently in the scope and budget phase, municipal consent phase coming mid-late October, one year of design feedback expected
 - ✓ 129 Plymouth Retail Update by Steve Minn, LUPE Development; site is a Superfund cleanup area; currently in land use approval phase – approvals anticipated in Nov-Dec; coming back for authorization in October
- Committee Business:
 - ✓ The Education Committee's survey is out and available at downtownmplsschool@gmail.com; will close in October
 - ✓ SWLRT must go to authorize municipal consent
 - ✓ Park Board Group to meet Monday, September 30
- Please see the North Loop Neighborhood Association Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting notes from September 18, 2013 for more information; notes are available on the NLNA website

D. Planning & Zoning – West River Parkway Update – Matt Hilgart

- Matt reports that a map of the proposal was released; several reviews and a public open house coming up; approval is anticipated for Spring 2014 with work to start Summer 2014; a potential connection to the River through the

Star Tribune property may be cut as it may cause safety issues; **the NLNA Board made and approved a motion for Matt to write a letter stating the NLNA supports more connections to the River (and suggests not eliminating the aforementioned connection)**; discussion follows regarding increasing amount of lighting for safety while remaining non-obtrusive for residents with views; Matt states there will be improved signage, quality of lighting, and turning radii to increase safety; developers are making sure the plan coordinates with other City developments including Waterworks, the Central Mississippi River Corridor Plan, the U of M Extension Project, and the Franklin Ave Bridge reconstruction

E. Livability – Greening & Lighting – Fritz Kroll

- Fritz discusses new street lamps, Aria's greening efforts, and the cost estimates for iron hoops (\$6130 and \$5060); Scott suggests talking to Iron Maiden (a North Loop Blacksmith); these efforts are very expensive and intensive – maybe wait until next year or the year after?

F. Livability – Washington Tree Information – Matt Hilgart

- Matt is hoping NOT to be the lead of this initiative; a U of M student is now assisting – Matt starting to get her looped-in; Matt has talked to Donovan Walsh and Tractor Works – both are enthused and want to be a part of the effort; the hope is that it begins to come together without a lot of NL leadership

G. Livability - North Loop Park Initiative – David Frank

- No update this month

H. Livability – Bicycle Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Lowry Avenue North on Saturday, September 21 from 11AM – 6PM was very successful

I. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff

- Phil suggested to Renee that a crime alert should have been sent out regarding recent crimes; Police Department stands by their decision not to send out a crime alert because crimes being committed are in the CBD and not the North Loop
- Main “problem area” is in the vicinity of 2nd and Washington after 2 AM (i.e. people congregating at Sex World and Sinners); 2 stabbings and 2 shootings took place recently; portable cameras have caught some “crime footage”; this area is a big concern for the Police Department; Impact Auto has been asked to post a “No Trespassing sign, the business has agreed to do so
- There has been a slight uptick in theft from motor vehicles; people are leaving valuables in cars and trusting underground parking garages to be secure – this is part of the problem; Karen suggests dispersing additional literature regarding putting “Junk in the Trunk”
- Police resources are very strained right now due to focus at Cedar Riverside and the edge of the neighborhood near Grant Street as well as the CBD's goal for safer clubs and bars
- Next PAC meeting is October 2 at City Hall

- Next Court Watch is October 11 at 10 AM at the Public Library
- Next Block Club meeting is October 24 at 6 PM at Dunn Bros
- Scott asked if there is an Industrial Staffing update as loitering is still an issue; there is no update, but it is suggested that neighbors call 3-1-1 with concerns

J. Neighborhood School Update – David Frank

- Eric Laska reports “...hundreds and hundreds of survey responses” have been collected
- Survey has been/will be advertised in the Journal; **the NLNA Board made and approved a motion to cover the \$92 cost to advertise**
- Becky Boland, the lead for the school effort, has stepped down from her position; David believe he has found a replacement, but will confirm at next meeting

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. NRP - JR Maddox

- No update this month

B. Farmers Market Advisory Group Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- EBT capability now offered at the Lyndale Market; the Nicollet Mall Farmers Market does not currently have the infrastructure to do so, but potentially next year

C. 2020 Partners Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Chuck Leer has resumed his position as Chair – great to hear!; a BIG thank you to David Frank for being Interim Chair
- Target Field Station (formerly referred to as The Interchange) is 50% complete; 3 local artists have been selected to provide public art
- The Central Corridor is 96% complete
- The Freehouse has been put on hold until December (HGA space)
- It has not yet been made official, but a jumbo-tron at the Interchange is in the works to face away from the Ford Building; the jumbo-tron will show games and public service announcements, offer promotional opportunities and maybe a movie night; to be managed and operated by the Twins organization

D. DNG update – Karen Lee Rosar

- No update this month

E. Target Center Implementation Committee Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- No update this month

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Fritz Kroll discusses the Warehouse Business District; reports they are not asking anything of the North Loop other than whether or not businesses are signing up (no businesses are signing up at this time); Fritz to keep the Board posted
- Matt Hilgart announces he is moving out of the North Loop; is willing to continue working on efforts to either find a good end solution or smooth transition to a new Board Member if allowed; David states the Board is sad to see him move, and asks the Board to think about who could be appointed for the rest of the term
- Edina Realty is hosting a Pumpkin Give-Away on Saturday, October 12 from 1-4 PM

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.