



**NORTH
LOOP**
NEIGHBORHOOD

**North Loop Neighborhood Association
Annual Meeting Notes
January 29, 2014
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Aria, 105 1st St N**

Attendees: Philip Ailiff, David Frank, DJ Heinle, Fritz Kroll, Karen Lee Rosar, Scott Woller, Adam Schiff

Absent: JR Maddox, Dave Decker, Matt Hilgart, Diane Merrifield, Mike Faulk

- I. Annual Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
- II. January 29, 2014 / Annual Meeting Agenda Approved: A motion was made and approved to move the election immediately after special guest presentations.
- III. November 20, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes Approved
- IV. Special Guests:
 1. Council Member Presentation – Jacob Frey
Council Member Frey (3rd Ward) stated that two new staff, Jay Ludke and Heidi Ritchie, have been hired. He indicated that the thriving North Loop Neighborhood, consists of two main demographics – young professionals and empty nesters, and in order to appeal additional demographics, including families, two main objectives need to be met:
 - a) New School: Frey reported that a new K-5 school is being planned, across the river, at the former Webster school. It will begin as a K-2 school, with an additional grade added each year.
 - b) Additional Green Space: The North Loop needs additional green space in the form of pocket parks.Frey expressed a desire to be accessible to his contingents and provided his office number and e-mail 612.673.2203; jacob.frey@minneapolis.gov.
 2. Park Board Commissioner Presentation – Anita Tabb / John Olson
 - a) Commissioner Olson noted that the Park Dedication Fee had been passed, allowing development funds to be captured and allocated to the improvement and addition of parks / green spaces. He indicated that 2014 objectives include the restoration of Hall's Island, greening of the Plymouth Avenue Bridge, continuation of the bikeway through a federal grant that has been applied for, and a bonding request for greening of 26th Avenue.

- b) Commissioner Tabb encouraged participation in the 2014 Master Planning efforts. She noted that the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board has been invited to participate in the development of a specific park in the North Loop, and that MPRB staff has been assigned and is excited to assist.
- 3. County Commissioner Presentation – Linda Higgins
Commissioner Higgins noted that a special election will be held on May 13 to replace Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman. She noted a resolution was introduced (1/28/14), due to lack of progress over the past four years, to withdraw the proposal to increase the capacity of garbage disposal at the HERC, and instead require first-class cities to provide organic waste collection services for residential buildings consisting of one to eight units.
- 4. State Senator Presentation – Bobby Joe Champion
Senator Champion reported on five items:
 - a) The November forecast projected a positive cash flow of approximately \$1.1 billion. The funds will first be used to repay schools in the amount of \$246 million. Allocation of the remaining \$825 million will be the topic of much discussion; current proposals include: putting additional funds in reserve, booking inflation back into the process, increasing residential workers wages by five percent, etc.
 - b) It is a bonding year. The governor submitted a \$986 million proposal, which will also be the topic of much discussion.
 - c) The construction of the Vikings Stadium is underway, and is already resulting in an influx of economic development in the area, including Wells Fargo new headquarters (5000 jobs) and the Ryan development with a two block park.
 - d) The senator noted that the Green Line will be opening on June 14th. He noted the delay of the SW rail line, and indicated that they will be working hard to get the route resolved and the project moving forward again.
 - e) Lastly, the senator noted that there will be a large focus on how to maintain Minnesota's crumbling infrastructure, which costs approximately \$300 million each year. A discussion is taking place about adding a possible gas tax; however the governor has expressed public awareness and support for such approach is essential.
- 5. State Representative Presentation – Ray Dehn
Representative Dehn reported that the legislative session begins February 25, and that he presented a bill today on mortgage foreclosure automatic mediation. He noted that, related to the surplus, part of the discussion will likely look at whether a portion of the business taxes introduced in last year's tax bill can be repealed. He is working on a bill asking Congress to introduce an amendment to the states, which would overturn Citizen's United, which he indicated, "currently allows unfettered money into the election process." He also noted that the precinct caucuses will be held on February 4th.
- 6. Safety / Police Department / DID Presentation –
Renee Allen, Medaria Arrandando, Shane Zahn, Chris Dixon
 - a) Inspector Arrandando (1st precinct) noted that the North Loop police officers are among the best, and introduced the others.

- b) Chris Dixon, with the city's attorney's office, noted the following programs which are in place to reduce recidivism by the worst offenders:
 - i. Downtown 100
 - ii. Court Watch

He indicated that in the past four years, they have reduced recidivism by over 70%, by working to find individuals housing, and treatment for addiction and mental health issues. He noted that Court Watch meets the second Friday of each month, and invited interested individuals to attend. He indicated that meetings include discussion of each case, amongst crime prevention specialists, police officers, social workers, and the public, to determine how to provide individuals the necessary help.
- c) Shane Zahn, with the Downtown Improvement District, noted that DID's focus is on providing a safer, greener, and cleaner downtown. He indicated that DID is 100% funded by downtown businesses, and provides directions to thousands of downtown visitors, removes tons of trash, and recently added 60 greening pots along 1st Avenue. He reminded all of the up-coming 2014 All Star Game.
- d) Renee Allen, crime prevention specialist in the 1st precinct, provided two crime maps for the North Loop neighborhood – for part-one crimes, and larceny. She offers information and services to groups and business on crime prevention, and encouraged anyone with questions to contact her.

V. Board Election and Election Process – David Frank

- David Frank summarized the neighborhood by-laws, indicating that the NLNA consists of a board of 11 members, who serve 2-year terms. He noted the election requirements for notification procedures, voter eligibility, and minimum voters and resident ratios.
- David indicated that six seats are open for the 2014 election, and commented on the responsibilities of board members. Seven candidates were nominated in advance of the meeting, and the floor was opened to additional nominations. No additional nominations were made.
- Each candidate, or their representative, made a brief presentation. Voting took place.
- Two volunteers from the League of Women Voters counted the ballots. The results, which were not available until after the meeting adjourned, elected the following board members: Phil Ailiff, Diane Merrifield, Brent Nelson, Karen Lee Rosar, and Scott Woller. A tie occurred between Mike Faulk and Dave Decker. A tie-breaker (coin toss, or similar) will be held at the next board meeting.

VI. Finance Report – David Frank

- Account balance at the end of 2013 was \$20,595.91 (\$13,034.99 in savings; \$7,560.92 in checking).
- \$1275 was spent from checking in December and will be submitted to CPP for reimbursement:
 - L+B monthly accounting fee: \$200
 - L+B 2013 tax preparation: \$875
 - USPS postage permit: \$200
- \$36,763 was spent on projects in 2013. Most of this balance has already been reimbursed; outstanding payments will be submitted for CPP reimbursement when un-submitted total is larger.

- 2013 Fundraising and Contributions totaled \$5,059.13, and included 1st Street Trees, Explore the North Loop Event, and Gift Bags/door prizes for the Annual meeting

VII. Neighbor Comments

- Many residents were present for the election, and were invited to attend future board meetings, held on the last Wednesday of each month at Heritage Landing.
- Sara Commers of Commers Custom Jewelers indicated that her relocated store at 217 Fifth Avenue North, will be opening on Saturday, February 1st.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. State of the North Loop Report – David Frank

David reported that the North Loop gained many neighbors in 2013, and grew faster than any other Minneapolis neighborhood. He noted that Be the Match will be moving in near Fulton, and will add 900 jobs. Additionally, Whole Foods opened in 2013 and the North Loop Neighborhood received 2013 City Pages' Best Hipster and Best Food Neighborhood awards. He commented on livability issues, noting excitement for the new school planning process, and inviting interested individuals to join the Neighborhood Greening Committee.

B. Marketing and Promotions – Scott Woller

- Scott noted that the NLNA supports and promotes many neighborhood events throughout the year. He indicated that they planned to do another 'Explore the North Loop' event in 2014, and invited interested parties to sign-up or contact him. He indicated that an Earth Day clean-up will be held the Saturday after Earth Day. He also noted that Diane is looking for volunteers to assist with the website and social media sites.

C. North Loop Business Association – Scott Woller

- Scott indicated that door prizes for the meeting were donated by: All Seasons Cleaners, Corner Coffee, Corner Church, the Farmers Market, and Brian Graham Salon. Door prizes were awarded.
- Scott commented that they wanted to grow the NLBA, and are looking for leaders to assist with development and collaboration efforts.

D. Website Update – David Frank

- David indicated that Diane had made much progress on the website, **northloop.org**. He noted that you can sign-up for updates or contact the board via the website. He indicated that there are also advertising opportunities on the website. Karen added that NLNA also has a Facebook page, and encouraged all to 'like' their page.

E. Planning & Zoning – DJ Heinle

- The following presentations were made at the January 2013 Planning & Zoning Meeting:
 - ✓ City of Minneapolis' Transportation and Maintenance Facilities made a presentation on a mill and overlay project, expected to result in a one week closure of a portion of 5th Street North, in April 2014.

- ✓ City of Minneapolis' Traffic Division was presented with six areas of issue for review, and will meet to further discuss these items with the P+Z committee in Spring.
- ✓ A presentation was made on the \$50 million Nicollet Mall redevelopment. The next step in the process will be a conceptual cost estimate in May, with the goal start date of 2016.
- ✓ Motions for approval were requested for:
 - Randy Shaver Foundation Fundraiser at Crave – to allow for an event street closure on Sunday, June 1 from 5:00-9:30 pm. Approved unanimously at P+Z. Motion approved.
 - Socialista, a new fine dining restaurant, scheduled to open in March, at 730 Washington. The restaurant will consist of 150 seats in the upper level and 75 on the lower level, have 60-75 employees, and will serve lunch and dinner, including alcohol. Approved unanimously at P+Z. Motion approved.
- Committee Business:
 - ✓ SWLRT update: Kelly Nelson attended as the representative of the NL. The Freight and Rail study is expected to be available in draft form at the February 3rd CAC meeting.
 - ✓ DJ noted the up-coming openings of the Target Field station and the Green Line.
- Please see the North Loop Neighborhood Association Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting notes from January 2014 for more information; notes are available on the NLNA website.

F. Livability - Greening & Lighting– Fritz Kroll

- Fritz indicated the biggest 2013 success was extending the 1st Street Trees. He encouraged businesses and individuals to help with and offer input on greening efforts, no matter how small.

G. Livability - North Loop Park Initiative – David Frank

- The NL Park Steering Committee is kicking-off to create a real park, near the surface lots adjacent to Bunkers. Individuals interested in assisting should let the Board know.

H. Livability – Bicycle Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Karen wanted to draw attention to the website mplsbike.org, for advocacy and biking events in Minneapolis.

I. Safety and Livability – Phil Ailiff

- The next Block Club meeting will be held in February. Notification of the meeting time will be sent out via Block Club updates. Interested individuals can sign-up for notifications. Meetings typically occur on the 3rd Wednesday of each month
- The next Court Watch meeting is February 14th at 10 AM at the Minneapolis Public Library
- The next Pedestrian Advisory meeting will be February 5th at 4pm in Room 333 of City Hall.
- 2014 Safety and Livability goals are to get more content on the website and social media sites.

J. Neighborhood School Update – Adam Schiff

- As noted previously, Minneapolis Public Schools has designated the former Webster School site for a new K-5 elementary school. Representatives of the Downtown School Initiative and MPS toured the existing facility on January 16, and it was noted as a great and flexible space. Input from the community and parents is welcome, but it was noted that the turnaround timeframe is short. Brent Web will be the NLNA point of contact for getting the NL's voice heard.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A. Revolving Loan Fund Update – J.R. Maddox.

- No update.

B. Farmers Market Advisory Group Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- No update.

C. 2020 Partners Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- Karen explained that 2020 Partners is, *“a forum to facilitate the continuing transformation of a vital and unique place. Its goal is to lay the foundation and attract investment for future development by knitting together communities and leveraging the assets of Target Field, Minneapolis Farmer's Market, transit and energy.”* At the most recent meeting, it was reported that Dunn Brothers will be opening a new location on Washington near Dock Street Apartments, the second week of February. A new retailer, Shineola will occupy the former Dunn Brothers site. A new women's active retail store will open the second week of May. The Target Field light rail station will open May 17, and the Green Line will open June 14.

D. DNG Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- No update

E. Target Center Implementation Committee Update – Karen Lee Rosar

- The meeting was postponed to February 20.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- See Item 'V' Board Election above.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.