

NIEBNA Board Meeting
6:30 – 8:00pm, April 21 2022 via Zoom
APPROVED

Attendance

Board Members Present: Carole Merrill (President), Sarah Woessner (Vice-President), Lisa Hondros (Treasurer), Barry Clegg, Craig Beddow, Denise Holt, John Larkey, Michael Andrus, Scott Parkin, Andy Nagle, Roberta Swanson.

Board Members Absent: Leslie LeMair (Secretary), Brett Kistner, Jeffrey Meehan, Kyle Watkins.

Others Present: Michael Rainville (City Councilmember – Ward 3), Henry Jarvin (Policy Aide - Ward 3), Michael Jon Olson (NIEBNA Coordinator), Alisa Matheson (NIEBNA Communication & Outreach Coordinator), Michael Sichmeller (community member), Mary Thompson (community member), Ellen Joseph (community member), Linda [no last name] (community member).

Preliminaries

Meeting was called to order at 5:01.

Carole welcomed everyone and announced that she is working to secure a space for in-person board meetings. She has made a request for use of a room at La Rive Condos. Board meetings will continue to be on-line until a suitable (and hopefully free!) meeting location has been secured.

The agenda was approved.
Minutes of the March meeting were approved
The financial report was approved.

Reports & Presentations

Ward 3 Report. CM Rainville reported that:

- He is working with all of the neighborhood organizations in the ward on tailored crime prevention initiatives (e.g. see the article sent by Jeff Meehan sent about the walking club in the North Loop).
- The Northeast Business Association (NEBA) is planning to contribute \$9,000 to hire two officers to patrol Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights in the area during the summer. CM Rainville believes that it will be 2 to 3 years before MPD staffing returns to a level that would allow for regular beat cops again.
- He had talked with Criag and Jeff about some crime prevention ideas for NIEBNA (on the agenda for later in the meeting).

Jetset. Peter Kiriara and Susan Liesch from Jetset introduced themselves and described their plan to re-open Jetset (previously located in the North Loop) in the neighborhood. They noted that:

- Jetset is an LGBTQ-oriented restaurant and lounge that will be open Wednesday and Thursday, 5:00 - 11:00pm; Friday and Saturday, 5:00pm - 2:00am.
- They are seeking a full liquor license with Sunday sales, as they will operate occasionally on Sundays (e.g. for a pre-Pride breakfast, weddings, reunions, memorials, etc.)
- There will be no drinks or music outside; they are not requesting a sidewalk permit.
- Jetset operated for 17 years in the North Loop and was always in good standing and in compliance with the liquor license. They had no complaints and no police citations. In addition to Jetset, Peter and Susan previously operated Moose & Sadies (which opened in 1991 and closed permanently during COVID) and d Bev's Wine Bar (opened in 1995).
- The public hearing is May 5.

Curry Corner. Laura Boyd and Pinda Singh introduced themselves and their plan to open an East Indian restaurant in the former Ginger Hop location. They noted that:

- Mr. Singh's family has been in the restaurant business for a long time (his father and uncle started Taste of India) and that he has MBA from St. Thomas University.
- They are looking to open mid-May and plan to be open 7 days a week, 11:00am to 10:00pm, but potentially later some evenings for special events.
- They will assume the existing licenses for the site (on-sale liquor license with Sunday sales, the general entertainment license, and the sidewalk cafe license). The City does not require a public hearing requirement for the licenses because the licenses run with the site, not with the owners, and the City does not require public hearings unless the new owners are requesting a new license type.
- The restaurant space is approximately 5300 square feet, seats around 130 people, and has a small dance floor.
- The sidewalk cafe would have 7 tables and seating for up to 25 people. Members of the board recommended creating defined space for the outdoor seating that has a sense of separation from the street.

Communications & Outreach. Alisa reported that she has:

- Completed the Community Engagement Plan, which covers general outreach as well as specific outreach to seniors and renters; this was sent out to board members prior to the meeting.
- Updated the website and social media accounts to create a uniform look across communication channels, and is working on a regular posting schedule.
- Launched the Building Ambassador Program, which aims to have at least 1 and ideally 2 ambassadors in each of the area multifamily buildings. A few people have expressed interest so far.
- Drafted the community survey (which was sent to the board for feedback) and will be sending that out soon.

Actions

Moved and seconded: *To approve a letter of support for Jetset and all of their license requests.*
Passed unanimously.

Moved and seconded: *To approve a letter of support for Curry Corner and all of their license requests.* Passed unanimously.

Moved and seconded: *To approve the IRS Form 990 filing and the Annual Report to the Minnesota Attorney General's Office including the following required resolution:*

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nicollet Island East Bank Neighborhood Association Board of Directors has approved the contents of the proposed Charitable Organization Annual Report; that the Board of Directors has assumed and will continue to assume responsibility for determining matters of policy, and has supervised and will continue to supervise the finances of the corporation; and that such Registration Statement shall be executed and filed by officers of this corporation.

Passed unanimously.

Discussions

Neighborhood History Projects. Scott presented his ideas for two projects: 1. Install bronze plaques on about 39 historic buildings in the neighborhood that include key information about the building (e.g. year built, architect, style, etc.). 2. Developing a mobile “pop-up” history museum that could be set up in vacant storefronts in the neighborhood. Scott’s full presentation was sent to the board prior to the meeting.

Plaques on Historic Buildings

- NIEBNA would likely be able to use NRP funds for this project; NIEBNA would need to do an NRP plan modification to move additional funds to the existing history-related strategy (NRP Phase 2 - Strategy 7.2: “Historic Preservation Efforts.”)
- The board expressed general support for the idea.
- Next steps are: Solidify the budget (Scott), get preliminary approval from the City Finance Department for use of NRP funds (Michael Jon), and bring a specific request to the board at the May meeting (Scott).

Mobil Museum

- Could engage the community in the history of the area by: collecting oral histories; highlighting the history of indigenous peoples in the area and their relationship with the falls as a sacred place; telling the stories of working class people and the multiple waves of immigrants that have settled in the area (French, Lebanese, Ukrainian, Polish, German); etc.

- Retail spaces in new developments are often vacant for long periods of time, so there are ample potential spaces that could potentially be used, and Scott has a lead on a potential initial location.
- Michael Jon will check in with NCR to see if the museum concept would potentially be an eligible use of the CPP Rollover/Equitable Engagement funds as a community engagement tool.

Public Safety Projects. Craig presented - and the board discussed - two ideas that the Public Safety team have been developing: 1) Outreach involving a joint NIEBNA/Beat Cop “pop-up” table at various locations in the neighborhood. 2) An on-street ambassador program (similar to the Downtown Improvement District ambassadors in downtown). The Public Safety team will work with Michael Jon and Alisa to further develop these ideas and bring them back to the board for consideration.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Woessner and Michael Jon Olson