



NūLoop Partners Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 5:00-6:30 p.m.  
HGA, Ford Center, 420 North 5th Street, Gallery 2 Conference Room

## Annual Meeting Notes

(<https://www.nulooppartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/7-16-19-NuLoop-Partners-General-Member-Meeting-ANNUAL-MEETING-Dans-slides.pdf>)

### 1. Call to Order

Chair and HGA Emeritus Nick Koch welcomed the audience to the annual meeting and while displaying the picture of the Bailey family gathered on Christmas Eve in Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, he noted in some ways we're all Bailey Brothers Building & Loan because of what we've been doing here for a long time, i.e., laying the foundation and attracting investment for future development to help make the neighborhood more vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

Koch explained why he was wearing his vintage Minnesota Twins jersey: (1) he was part of C-17, a Citizens Advisory Committee charged by the City Council to investigate the feasibility of a privately-funded urban baseball park in Minneapolis ([http://www.ballparkmagic.com/\\_resources/c17report.pdf](http://www.ballparkmagic.com/_resources/c17report.pdf)); (2) there's a Twins game this evening; and (3) we're in the 10th season of play at Target Field.

The development of Target Field was the catalyst for the establishment of 2010 Partners, which became 2020 Partners, then after breaking the chronologic naming pattern, thanks to the pro bono rebranding assistance from ICF Next, became NūLoop Partners. NP's history and mission informs its annual goals and work plan, more about which we'll hear from Dan Collison, that brings us all together in order to implement. NP has a tradition of working on the development of the physical and human infrastructure through community engagement and partnerships with the public and private sectors and all levels of government ranging from the City Council, Hennepin County, Metropolitan Council, state and federal legislators.

After C-17 completed its charge and the 8-acre site in the Warehouse District was chosen, DAG 360, the design advisory group, was formed to set a design framework through a charrette process during which for the first time the phrase "a compact transit-oriented ballpark in an urban neighborhood" was ever written. The strategic keys to its success included creating civic, human and economic value that's tied to housing, transportation and development, and understanding what's around the ballpark is as important as the ballpark itself.

Providing additional historical context, Koch displayed an aerial view of the ballpark site before Target Field was built; it was a huge surface parking lot that was previously a freight railyard which brought boxcars filled with Ford Model T parts into what is now the lower level parking area of the Ford Center (<http://leaseupspace.com/mpls/MOG/FordCenter/FordCenterPackage.pdf>). One hundred years later, there are more people working in the building today than when Model T's were built, and it's still all about transit.

Since there are a lot of new NP members who don't know its history, once all the information is gathered and edited, Koch will have it placed online. He recommended Steve Berg's coffee table size *Target Field: The New Home of the Minnesota Twins* (<https://www.amazon.com/Target-Field-Home-Minnesota-Twins/dp/0760339651>) as having a wonderful history of how we came to where we are today.

Koch extended appreciation for the roles played by the Pohlad family; former MT president Jerry Bell who'll be inducted into the Twins Hall of Fame on August 3rd (<https://www.mlb.com/twins/community/fund/events/hof-breakfast>); current MT president Dave St. Peter; and a host of individuals who came together in 2007 catalyzed by the imminent arrival of Target Field, this important piece of public infrastructure, to help make the neighborhood more welcoming and ready for future development.

He also thanked the Steering Committee members who do the real work between these meetings; the sponsors; staff members Dan Collison, Christie Rock Hantge, and Carletta Sweet; his two predecessors, David Frank and Chuck Leer; and key advisors Mark Oyaas, Mary deLaittre, David Albersman and many others.

Lastly, he thanked everyone in attendance and advised he wanted them to have an historical overview of how Target Field came into being before attending tonight's ballgame and how it's tied to NP's mission.

## 2. Hennepin County District 2

Executive Director Dan Collison explained with the departure of Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, NūLoop Partners needed another County Commissioner who is focused on the assets of this area and investments in Target Field and the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center. As a consequence, when he reached out to HC District 2 Commissioner Irene Fernando to brief her on the work of NP and the activities of its Steering Committee, she was amenable to engaging with the group going forward.

Fernando introduced herself, described her district's boundary which includes where she resides at Penn Avenue North & Highway 55 (<https://www.hennepin.us/your-government/leadership/2nd-district>), and her role and responsibilities as mandated by state law (<https://www.mncounties.org/CLIC/County%20Officers/Duties%20of%20a%20County%20Commissioner.pdf>). Hennepin County is a 7-member governing board that oversees about \$2.5 billion on behalf of its residents. It touches literally every single aspect of our lives and for many residents its work often goes overlooked. As a consequence, she was first inspired to run to increase the visibility, transparency and responsibility of this governing structure to the people who are impacted by its decision making including businesses, employees, residents, and people receiving HC goods and services.

While holding this position, she first promised to advance complex issues in partnership with everyone whose around the table which involves multiple layers of government working with each other and not caring at times where jurisdictional lines may lie but to see from the viewpoint of residents how issues can be solved. For example, she's working with Tim Bildsoe and other jurisdictions on the intersection of I-394 and Washington Avenue; however, she can't share yet what they'll do but at least they're all meeting at the same table. While leading through a partnership approach, she hopes we can first disagree accurately. Elected officials often don't see eye-to-eye but they're not necessarily talking about the same stuff, so let's first disagree accurately and hear everyone's viewpoint.

Second, she promised to advocate for those who are structurally marginalized and not always present in the room; to ensure the narratives of those who are systemically or by happenstance overlooked are present in the room when engaging in decision making.

Because of her previous experience – co-founded and led Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF), Bush Foundation Fellow, led organizational design, culture and talent at Thrivent Financial – she comes with a holistic approach on how to get the solutions needed for our residents and believes the best way to accomplish this is by ensuring everyone's at the table, hearing all viewpoints,

and engaging honestly.

Thereafter, Fernando distributed her business cards and entertained questions from the audience during which she advised she's been in office for 6 months (was elected in November 2018); she grew up in Los Angeles and at age 17 came to Minnesota for college and subsequently attended graduate school; and stayed as a result of social entrepreneurship and community leadership. The University of Minnesota has a large retention and boomerang rate which has a positive economic impact on the region.

Lastly, when asked about the upcoming Census 2020 (<https://mn.gov/admin/demography/census2020/>) and Redistricting ([https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting\\_in\\_Minnesota\\_after\\_the\\_2020\\_census](https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting_in_Minnesota_after_the_2020_census)), Fernando advised traditionally HC has been nonpartisan and she wants to ensure the drawing of the new congressional and state legislative district boundaries are done equitably as it's believed there's been historical undercounting in North Minneapolis. [For information about Minneapolis Redistricting, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/charter/redistricting/index.htm>.]

### 3. 2018-2019 Goals Review | 2019-2020 Proposed Goals

Collison reported on the progress made on the 2018-2019 goals that were developed when he became NP's first Executive Director in January 2017.

Then, while referencing his handout, he presented the following proposed overarching goals for 2019-2020, continuing with:

- a. **Priority Nexus.** The west and north sides of the North Loop as it connects to nearby neighborhoods and follows transit-oriented development.
- b. **Improve Connections | Offset Barriers.** Asking for funding for redesign of a pedestrian connection to C Ramp, tracking with Public Works on the ubiquitous projects, redesign of intersection of I-394 and Washington Avenue.
- c. **Business and Property Owner Engagement.** Have been meeting to understand how managing new properties/mixed-use projects as they come online can be weaved into the fabric of the neighborhood.
- d. **Public Realm Surrounding Emerging Large-scale Projects.** Includes supporting HERC and understanding and promoting district energy.
- e. **Transit-oriented Development.** Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station (<https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/Southwest-LRT/Route-Stations/Royalston-Farmers-Station.aspx>), Glenwood Avenue improvements (<https://www.hennepin.us/glenwoodmpls>), Bottineau/Blue Line Extension (<https://metro council.org/transportation/projects/Light-Rail-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Project-Facts.aspx>), advocacy for BRT D Line (<https://www.metrotransit.org/d-line-project>).
- f. **Urban Visioning and Livability.** Support and promote ongoing developments.

Collison added NP works with a cross-sector of institutions for the common good with an emphasis on land use.

### 4. North Loop Neighborhood Association Update & Special Recognition

Collison announced the NLNA is co-hosting a Crime and Safety Public Forum with the Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association (<https://northloop.org/event/dmna-nlna-crime-safety-public-forum/>) on Wednesday, August 7th, 6:00-8:00 p.m., in the Target Performance Hall ([http://www.openbookmn.org/explore\\_performancehall.aspx](http://www.openbookmn.org/explore_performancehall.aspx)) at Open Book, 1011 Washington Avenue South.

NLNA President Tim Bildsoe advised what's great about NūLoop Partners and the NLNA is they aren't just about buildings, although buildings are very important; more importantly these

organizations are about the people who live downtown helping to make Minneapolis a great city and Mark Huting (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-huting-33075125>) is a prime example of those who have made a difference in our community.

If we've driven through the North Loop over the last year, we would have noticed a lot more trees, green space and activity, all of which can be attributed to Huting. Although he's moving to Golden Valley to be able to enjoy his own private garden, he leaves the following legacy of projects he's initiated.

- When he first joined the NLNA board in 2017, he convinced then Council Member Jacob Frey to improve the roads in the North Loop, which was the catalyst for the North Loop Paving and Pedestrian Improvements Projects (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@publicworks/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-207316.pdf>);
- Leveraged close to \$300,000 in donated funds to plant trees and create green spaces in the North Loop;
- Developed the North Loop Welcome Park at the intersection of I-394 and Washington Avenue, and more design work for the *Welcome to the North Loop* monument is underway;
- Worked on a pedestrian greenway which has a cut-through from Washington Avenue to North 2nd Street;
- Worked with the Federal Reserve Bank on creating green space adjacent to its proposed 800-stall Heritage Landing Parking Ramp;
- Worked with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Green Minneapolis on the proposed North Loop City Park at 730 North 3rd Street;
- Has promoted public art;
- Worked on historic preservation to capture history of North Loop via development of a signage prototype to be placed on significant sites and buildings; and
- Just a week ago he created a public garden behind Number 12 Cider.

Then in recognition of the fantastic job he's done to bring beauty and improve the livability of the neighborhood, Bildsoe awarded Huting an orange traffic cone; members could sign it then or at the next NLNA board meeting on July 31st (<https://northloop.org/event/nlna-board-meeting-2-2018-08-29-2019-02-27-2019-06-26-2019-07-31/>). Bildsoe will also be bestowing to Huting one of the railroad stakes he removed from 7th Avenue North after Public Works removed all the bituminous materials revealing the old tracks.

Huting advised he worked his whole career in nuclear power, which is kind of insulating, so it's been good to get out and meet all us interesting people; it's been the best time of his life. Bildsoe has become one of his best buds and they have done so many things together and have had a lot of good times. Then he encouraged everyone to carry on the idea of beautifying the neighborhood, e.g., sweeping the sidewalks, pulling the weeds out of the pavements, and keeping their properties looking good as these actions will make the North Loop shine.

Bildsoe then announced:

- The next monthly neighborhood cleanup is on Saturday, July 27th, 10:00-11:00 a.m., departing at Whole Foods (<https://northloop.org/event/monthly-neighborhood-cleanup-2019-07-27/>).

On the same date beginning at the same time is the neighborhood cleanup of James I. Rice Park (<https://northloop.org/event/james-rice-park-monthly-clean-2019-07-20/>).

- A meeting with the City, Hennepin County and MnDOT to discuss the intersection of I-394 and Washington Avenue will be held on Wednesday, July 31st.
- National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th will take place at Target Field Plaza, same night as the Twins versus the Atlanta Braves at Target Field.
- Soon NLNA board member Bri Sharkey-Smith will lead a voter registration effort to get people engaged in the community.
- Just booked the Muse Event Center for the January 29, 2020 annual meeting. Programming will be like the 2019 annual meeting but better.

Collison added the NLNA is also privileged to have Mike Binkley, former WCCO news anchor who is now a video producer (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/binkleymike>), join their board. Binkley is out on the street with cameras telling stories about the North Loop which Collison exemplified by playing Binkley's 1.5 minute video on Huting discussing a new pedestrian greenway (see proposed walkway would be colorful at <https://northloop.org/video/>).

Lastly, Collison thanked Dave St. Peter for providing 100 tickets to the Minnesota Twins versus New York game that evening.

## 5. [Lyndale] Market District Work Group Summary

Jackson Schwartz, Co-Founder of Hennepin Made (<http://www.hennepinmade.com/about/>), Parallel Café (<https://www.parallelmn.com/>), and lead of this work group, explained how he became involved with NP and this work group.

Because their glass business was growing rapidly, in 2016 they purchased, renovated and moved into the 30,000 square foot space at 144 Glenwood Avenue, just 0.2 of a mile southeast of the Lyndale Farmers Market, and subsequently invested several million dollars into developing a café. A year into the café, several events converged which precipitated convening around building a vision for the neighborhood from the ground up: in response to all the residential growth more public storage was being built, e.g., Minneapolis Downtown Self Storage (<https://www.thelockup.com/self-storage-minneapolis-downtown>); the Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County approved the final scope and budget for the Southwest LRT I Green Line Extension (<https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/Southwest-LRT/Project-Facts.aspx>); and his having worked with Collison on the 12-month Glenwood Avenue Corridor initiative (<https://www.nulooppartners.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Glenwood-Corridor-5-15-18-REDUCED-FINAL-for-Web.pdf>).

This work group, comprised of representatives from the private and public sector, convened at Parallel Café and covered the following information:

- First 3 months of meetings focused on orientation of area, key timings, and SWOT analysis.
- Meetings 3 and 4 were presentations by the Hennepin County Area Planning; Heather Worthington and team on *Minneapolis 2040* (<https://minneapolis2040.com/pdf/>); ESG's Neil

Reardon on prior visioning work and studies commission by the City.

- Conducted an Urban Design Workshop with walking tour and charrette (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/development-design-workshop-tour-re-imagining-the-farmers-market-district-tickets-62322568480>), from which a lot of discoveries were made, particularly from the pedestrian experience, that will be recapped at a meeting this week.

When Schwartz first tried to rally people around this initiative – he was the new kid on the block amongst many who were plan fatigued – he felt it important to move beyond just the Farmers Market site and what’s going to happen there because there was all these other spaces, so at the first meeting they developed a working definition for Market, i.e., a regular gathering of people for an exchange of culture and commerce, and District, i.e., creating a soft boundary as a way of increasing recognition and identify of distinct areas. In this instance, the area of focus as displayed by a map is bounded by Glenwood Avenue to the south, I-94 to the west, Olson Memorial Highway to the North, and Royalston Avenue/Farmers Market Station to the east.

Subsequent to conversations with the Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Association (<https://www.mplsfarmersmarket.com/FreshNews/about-us/>) about the evolution of the 30 farmers markets across the metro area, this work group discovered these markets have changed and specialized to maintain viability. The current configuration has fresh produce at the core, followed by value-added food goods (i.e., those that have been processed), followed by culture activity, the sphere in which Schwartz’s businesses occupy and where he believes there’s a larger opportunity for the district as a whole to complement the market. Specifically, Hennepin Made has held latte art throwdown (<https://www.parallelmn.com/throwdown>), craft bash with American Craft Council (<https://craftcouncil.org/shows/acc/acc-special-event>), and Little Box Sauna (<https://www.parallelmn.com/calendar/2019/1/17/little-box-sauna>), all of which has brought thousands of new people and vitality into the neighborhood during varying seasons of the year. In addition to this current configuration, two elements are helpful in framing the Market District experience, infrastructure and identity. The market hall or building is often the anchoring physical structure such as the Market Hall Rotterdam (<https://www.cityguiderotterdam.com/shopping/shopping-areas/market-hall-rotterdam/>) and Great Market Hall Budapest (<http://budapestmarkethall.com/great-market-hall-budapest>), and diverse programming and uses create the experience.

Common themes/questions that emerged from the charrette include:

- How can we leverage and expand the Market District beyond the Farmers Market?
- Who is the user or use that spurs / initiates private development or visible change beyond LRT development assets?
- What type of programming and soft infrastructure will help better define the area and build distinctiveness prior to construction of any new buildings? Needs to better tie in arts, music, culture to build a more dynamic market experience.

Going forward for the next 6 months, they plan to:

- Continue meeting monthly;
- Build consensus around key principles/values as framework for district to build distinctiveness;
- Establish key actions over the next 3-5 years to increase likelihood the district maintains vitality; and
- Anticipate how development and market forces will shape the area.

At the end of the year, he'll give a recap of their work. Meanwhile, here are two considerations for everyone to ponder:

- How does this area become a continuation of the energy and growth we've seen in North Loop while acting as bridge for equity and economic development for the broader community of North Minneapolis?
- As market interests and forces ramp up, how are we as leaders ensuring we're increasing density of creativity and culture at the same time as density of space?

Schwartz will be knocking on doors in the next 6 months to ask for our engagement in this work!

## 6. Ward Updates

a. **Ward 5.** City Council Member Jeremiah Ellison (<http://minneapolismn.gov/ward5/index.htm>) explained as everyone knows construction on the Southwest LRT has begun, a good thing, but it means Glenwood Avenue, a key connection for folks from North Minneapolis into downtown, will be closed for approximately 2 years (<https://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/Southwest-LRT/Construction.aspx>). Then he noted the following initiatives he's working on and welcomes feedback at his office:

- Renter Screening Criteria Ordinance (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-219286.pdf>) and Renter Security Deposit Ordinance (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-219284.pdf> and <https://www.minnpost.com/metro/2019/07/minneapolis-officials-get-an-earful-about-proposed-rules-on-renter-screening-security-deposits/>) which he hopes to have resolved by the end of the summer.
- Tomorrow the Public Safety & Emergency Management Committee will receive an overview on police staffing (<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/MarkedAgenda/PSEM/976>) by the Minneapolis Police Department.
- He's heard Schafer Richardson's second affordable housing project in the North Loop, The Redwell (<http://sr-re.com/projects/the-redwell/>), has broken ground.

b. **Ward 3.** City Council Member Steve Fletcher (<http://minneapolismn.gov/ward3/index.htm>) first praised the greening and pedestrian improvement work Huting has done in the North Loop and encouraged everyone to go and view what's been done thus far. Then he noted the following initiatives he's working on:

- What he planned to work on this summer: Wage Theft Prevention and Freelance Worker Protections (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/bulletins/249ec00>), both of which come directly from work by the City's Workplace Advisory Committee (WAC), and will complement their existing Minimum Wage and Earned Sick & Safe Time ordinances, as well as increase their Civil Rights Department's ability to ensure workers get paid for the work they do in Minneapolis.
- What he hadn't planned to work on this summer: Short-Term Rental Regulations. Because the short-term rental platforms aren't always forthcoming about their data, they've had to scrape to find out what's happening. They think that as much as a full percentage of the rental market is in short-term rental, a statistically important shift in the housing market that needs attention. There's been a couple hotspots where it's been rising to the surface including Sable (<https://www.uproperties.com/united-properties-and-grecos-sable-offers-condominiums-in-north-loop/>) in the North Loop. He encouraged those who have an

interest in how short-term rentals are being handled to get in touch with him.

- Regarding the recent rise in crime in downtown, there's a whole lot of different social phenomena connected to each other resulting in crime and the right response is as complex as the phenomena causing it. The right response to the shoplifting ring affecting Dana Swindler [co-owner of MartinPatrick3] and other business owners will be different from the response to drug sales occurring on Hennepin Avenue and from the homeless committing crimes in desperation. There are examples of wins and examples of where we haven't done as well that we'll continue working on.

Then he recognized Inspector Eddie Frizell's good work in the 1st Precinct and new position with Metro Transit Police ([https://www.insightnews.com/news/minneapolis-police-inspector-eddie-frizell-to-lead-metro-transit-police/article\\_d5dbae20-a4c2-11e9-b7bf-5fc321b931ab.html](https://www.insightnews.com/news/minneapolis-police-inspector-eddie-frizell-to-lead-metro-transit-police/article_d5dbae20-a4c2-11e9-b7bf-5fc321b931ab.html)) and noted not only will we get a new Inspector to train in but we'll also get someone who has 1st Precinct experience who'll be operating Metro Transit.

- Regarding the letter he received from NūLoop Partners about the Federal Reserve Bank's Heritage Landing Parking Ramp project that was voted against on July 8th by the Planning Commission, they'll continue having conversations, but what he's worried about that makes it hard to support and to imagine an appeal being successful is the FRB has been reluctant to put in writing its commitment to sharing the ramp with the public. If in the future a safety event happens and use is restricted because it wasn't written down, then the worse case scenario happens, i.e., people who don't want the ramp (two-thirds of the feedback he's received) lose because it was built, and people who want the ramp also lose because use is restricted and that's what the City has to be thinking about. We've got to make sure we have an agreement that provides the benefits it purports and we just don't have that now.

Alene Tchourumoff, SVP of Community Development and Engagement at the FRB (<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/news-and-events/news-releases/tchourumoff-named-senior-vice-president-of-community-development-and-engagement>), advised they are happy to talk about any concerns raised and that they're committed to being good neighbors.

## 7. Minneapolis Downtown Council-Downtown Improvement District Update

Steve Cramer, President and CEO, reported on the following:

### a. Downtown Improvement District (<https://www.mplsdid.com/>)

- With the help of CM Fletcher, celebrated its 10th anniversary on Wednesday, July 10th (<https://www.minneapolisfed.org/news-and-events/news-releases/tchourumoff-named-senior-vice-president-of-community-development-and-engagement>).
- Has partnered with the NLNA on planters for its greening program, and retail theft issues from a perspective that when parts of the greater downtown do well all of downtown does well.
- As safety is on all our minds, he's looking forward to hearing Police Chief Medaria Arradondo's staffing presentation before tomorrow's Public Safety & Emergency Management Committee. For the DID some of the most vexing challenges are around livability issues and downtown Minneapolis is probably doing as well as any downtown in the country. Block by Block (<http://blockbyblock.com/>), the organization that provides Ambassadors for DID, is having a national conference here with downtowns from around the nation to talk about how downtown organizations can be part of a construction



solution on this difficult issue.

**b. Minneapolis Downtown Council (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/>)**

- With support from Hennepin County via its *Go Outside with Hennepin County* program (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/gooutside/>), have programmed movie/trivia/fitness nights at Target Field Station.
- The 2019 Aquatennial kicks off on Wednesday, July 24th with the Life Time Torchlight 5K Race (<https://www.torchlight5k.com/race/>) along the new route 2nd Avenue South due to the Hennepin Avenue reconstruction, culminating in the Saturday, July 27th Target Fireworks (<https://www.aquatennial.com/fireworks/>).
- As public realm improvements are a priority for all downtown, take advantage this Thursday, July 18th to attend the grand opening of the revitalized Peavey Plaza (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/publicworks/PeaveyPlaza/>), a real place of urban refuge in the heart of downtown.
- Although the Nicollet Mall Redesign project is complete (<http://www.mplsbuild.com/projects/nicollet-mall-project/>), more public realm improvements are forthcoming, e.g., additional flowers, upgrades to the planting beds, up-lighting for trees.
- The 8th Street Reconstruction project (<https://www.8thstreetproject.com/>) is underway and they have partnered with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to install green infrastructure (<https://www.mwmo.org/blog/using-science-and-engineering-to-clean-up-downtown-minneapolis-dirty-stormwater-runoff/>).
- The downtown Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction project is underway (<https://www.hennepindowntown.com/>) and they're working hard with adjoining property owners and Public Works to determine what level of streetscape investments can be made along this important arterial thoroughfare.

**8. Public Works Projects Update.**

Rick Kreuser, Project Manager at Minneapolis Public Works, noted his presentation would be familiar to those who attended the May 21st meeting when he gave the following overview of projects impacting the North Loop area:

- Southwest LRT Glenwood Bridge Closure. Although this is a Metropolitan Council project, he is the representative that goes through the construction portion on the City's behalf. In order to attain closure, which was dependent on the SWLRT project schedule, the project team worked with BNSF Railway to ensure they had the appropriate permits. Closure occurred yesterday, July 15th and will last through summer 2021. When this was designed, Glenwood Avenue didn't have bike lanes but now does so they're working with Jackson Schwartz on a new detour route for access to Holden Street and in return they'll help him with some of the parking he's losing.

Because of demolition, part of the closure includes the Cedar Lake Trail that goes under Glenwood Avenue. Construction updates and maps of detours can be found at <https://metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Projects/Light-Rail-Projects/Southwest-LRT/Construction/Weekly-Updates/20190719-SWLRT-Civil-Construction-Update.aspx>.

- Hennepin Avenue Reconstruction. In cooperation with the RBC Gateway (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/rbc-gateway-project-breaks-ground-on-nicollet/>) and 240 Hennepin

directly across the street (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-215204.pdf>), they have accelerated utility work at the northern end so by the time the Gateway is open, paving will be complete. For detailed construction updates, visit <https://www.hennepindowntown.com/construction-updates/>.

Then on behalf of Project Engineer Stephanie Malmberg who couldn't attend, he gave an updates on the:

- North Loop Paving Project (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/currentprojects/WCMSP-200196>); and related
- North Loop Pedestrian Improvement Project (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/currentprojects/north-loop-ped-improvements>).

## 9. Raising Ramps Pop-up Fundraiser

Max Salmen, Industrial Property Specialist at Equity Financial Services (EFS), 501 Royalston Avenue, and Friends of the Minneapolis Farmers Market, advised because he's a big believer that increasing foot traffic and lighting are the low hanging fruit to bringing safety to a neighborhood, he's helping the Midwest Skateboard Alliance build an urban skate park on vacant MnDOT land at 2nd Avenue North and North 4th Street (<https://www.midwestskateboard.com/projects>).

His background is in the management of manufacturing buildings; they buy outdated buildings, gut them, paint them white, and try to find a new purpose to save them from the bulldozer. In doing so, he finds himself a stone's throw from the junkyard or in a cement-filled neighborhood that becomes very dark and scary after 5:30 p.m. Consequently, he's learned how to make these scary places feel safe by transforming underutilized public spaces into inclusive and safe environments.

They've been spearheading several projects to intensify the use and enhance the pedestrian experience. You see a lot more people these days moving through traffic via skateboards; there's a huge increase in this intermodal method and skateboarders are ahead of the curve in finding and activating unused spaces.

MDA's skatepark project will cost approximately \$1.5 million to build. To raise awareness and support for the skatepark, a Raising Ramps event (<https://www.midwestskateboard.com/events/raising-ramps>) will be held on Sunday, September 8th, 12:00-6:00 p.m., in EFS's parking lot on Royalston Avenue. Modist Brewing Company (<https://modistbrewing.com/>) will be providing the beer, cash prizes will be awarded for the best skate elements, and there'll be a contest for architects who find similar underutilized spaces around the city to help make our urban environment more fun and safe to walk around all hours of the day and has more small landmarks by which to navigate.

Salmen has been reaching out to local organizations for sponsorships, e.g., Familia Skateshop (<http://www.familiaskateshop.com/>), and welcomes any support from others, particularly developers, city parks advocates such as the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board ([https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/news/2018/01/04/minneapolis\\_park\\_and\\_recreation\\_board\\_approves\\_skate\\_park\\_activity\\_plan/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/news/2018/01/04/minneapolis_park_and_recreation_board_approves_skate_park_activity_plan/)), and those like NūLoop Partners who are willing to promote this concept.

Bildsoe proved at I-394 and Washington Avenue, you don't need a lot of space to make a park and a place where people want to hang out and, as we see more people living and working in smaller and smaller spaces, it's important we have more outside spaces in which to expand.

Since there will be the Minnesota Twins vs Cleveland Indians game on the same date, the neighborhood will be very active. Salmen will send more information about the Raising Ramps

event and welcomed everyone to come and enjoy themselves.

## 10. Closing Remarks

Referencing his opening comments, Koch stated by the kind of optimism we've shown growing together we are all George Bailey. He's never seen a setting where there's every level of government, cross-sector of industries, neighborhood and community leaders all in one space at different hub points. He's proud of the work NP does and the standing it has to move forward in a good way.

He announced the next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, September 24th when perhaps the leaves will be changing colors.

Lastly, he thanked everyone for coming, encouraged them to enjoy the beer provided by Fulton (<http://www.fultonbeer.com/>), and the Twins game!

Thereafter, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

## 11. Attendees

In addition to the above-named presenters, the following signed in:

Steve Chuba, Great River Energy HERC Service  
Matt Clark, Great River Energy HERC Services  
Raymond Dehn, MN House Representative District 59B  
Alice Eicholz, NLNA Planning & Zoning  
David Frank, Minneapolis CPED  
Lucy Galbraith, Metro Transit  
Christie Rock Hantge, NūLoop Partners Staff  
PJ Hubbard, Better Futures Minnesota  
Josh Katan, Minneapolis United Soccer Club  
Dan Kenney, Minnesota Ballpark Authority  
Andy Leith, Hennepin County Environmental Services  
Sherman Malkerson, The C. Chase Company  
Alex McCord, Better Futures Minnesota  
Diane Merrifield, NLNA and MindBridge Marketing  
Ra'eesa Motala, Lee & Associates  
Ella Rasp, The Musicant Group  
Neil Reardon, ESG Architects and Engineers  
Mark Spencer, HGA Architects and Engineers  
Shelby Schroeder, The Musicant Group  
Tim Steinbeck, Great River Energy HERC Services  
Jason Stevenson, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
Gordy Stofer, United Properties  
Alene Tchourumoff, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis  
Carletta Sweet, NūLoop Partners Staff  
Dale White, TFS Corporation  
Elijah Wieberdink, Lee & Associates