

CARAG

Calhoun Area Residents Action Group Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes April 18, 2006

Subject to Approval at the May 2006 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Attending: Jill Bode, Rick Bojko, Cindy Christian, Thatcher Imboden, Ellan Meyer, Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham, Aaron Rubenstein and Howard Verson. (Absent: none)

Welcome: The CARAG Board is made up of volunteers who also volunteer time on other neighborhood committees and organizations. Scott Engel, the CARAG community coordinator, can be reached at 612-823-2520. CARAG is a democratic organization; membership and voting privileges are open to residents, property owners, and business owners in the neighborhood.

Approve Agenda & Minutes: The agenda and the March meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Cindy Christian) CARAG has \$8515.31 in the operations account, \$6990.88 in asset accounts. \$493 in proceeds from the CARAG Chilly Chili Fest was forwarded to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf this month. One of the asset CDs, #4406, is coming due with a present balance of \$4197.90. It was proposed and approved by vote that upon maturity, this CD balance will be split into two CDs of different maturity periods, one 3-month and the other a longer-term 6, 12 or 18-month CD. The half-year CARAG spending report was distributed for review; other than a slightly smaller than expected grant from CPED funds for '06, our spending is well in-line with budgeting. No UNN account update was provided.

As announced last month, a change to the UNN bylaws was discussed and voted on. This change is to clarify the voting rights of independent contractors for the newspaper who are also appointed neighborhood reps on the UNN Managing Board. This bylaw change was approved by vote with 1 nay vote.

Volunteers are needed to staff the popcorn booth, with proceeds benefiting CARAG, at the Beer Festival on Hennepin Avenue, Saturday, June 3rd, from 5-9 pm.

Bryant Square Park (Julie Sandin) Baseball season is starting at the park! A "Spring Fling" event was recently held at the park; CARAG's donation to this event was appreciated.

Community Crime Prevention/SAFE (CPS Tom Thompson and Lt Marie Przyński) Following up on the Uptown murder: 4 juvenile males and 1 adult female were arrested as suspects in this crime; all are still in custody. CARAG can prepare a Neighborhood Impact Statement, to be used at sentencing of those found guilty; the sector attorney will coordinate this. The 5th Precinct will hold an Open House on Thursday, May 18th, from 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. The Police Activity League has youth looking to earn community service credits. These projects can not be for private business or residences, but can be clean-up or fix-up of any public space.

Lyndale United Church of Christ (Don Portwood, Alan Henden) Don Portwood provided an update on possible future changes at their church building at 31st and Aldrich. In essence, this existing building is too large and too old to effectively maintain. Although plans are not yet solidified, one option would be that the Lyndale congregation partner with Salem Lutheran Church at 28th and Lyndale, and together develop a new church building at that site, which would be a sustainable, 'green' building, and combine multiple uses, including possible neighborhood and residential uses. In this case, the existing building at 31st and Aldrich would be sold.

NRP Advisory/Finance Committee: (Cindy Christian, Scott Engel) Several 'house-keeping' votes were taken to enable contracting of services which meet the goals described in the CARAG NRP Action Plan.

The SPACE committee recommended approval of contracting \$2500 of NRP funds allocated under strategy 21.1 "Youth Activities" for a Summer Youth program at Bryant Square Park. Approved unanimously by board vote. The committee also recommended approval of contracting \$3000 of NRP funds allocated under strategy 21.1 "Youth Activities" for a Summer Youth program partnership with Bryant Square Park and Pangea World Theater. Approved unanimously by board vote.

The Livability Committee recommended approval of allocating a grant pool of \$5000 of NRP funds allotted under strategy 15.1 "Public Landscaping Projects" for Elm Tree Treatment Matching Grants, for trees in public boulevards. Approved by board vote of 8 to 1.

The NRP Advisory Committee recommended amending the CARAG NRP Administrative Contract to add an additional \$99,253 to strategy 22.1, "Staff, Office, and Administrative Costs", effecting the funding reallocation already approved by prior CARAG vote. Approved unanimously by board vote. Also, recommended amending the CARAG NRP Programs Contract adding \$10,500 for community gardening, neighborhood events, and education about water pollution in Lake Calhoun, and removing \$2,923.65 from the lighting program rectifying a previous over-commitment of these funds. Approved unanimously by board vote.

The NRP Advisory and Finance Committees are seeking new members, in particular as we begin the evaluation phase of NRP Phase I funding, and will eventually begin planning for NRP Phase II.

The Crime and Safety Committee reported that CARAG Stroll Patrols are underway. Thanks to Kelly Newcomber for donating a graphic design for the stroll patrol vests, and to Stroker Ace Screen Printing (34th and Lyndale) for generously donating the screen printing of the logo onto the safety vests.

The Transportation Committee reported that volunteers will be needed for another bicycle traffic count on Bryant Ave prior to the opening of the bikeway.

City Council Member Report: (Ralph Remington) The Uptown Small Area Plan process kicks off this Saturday, April 22, at Bryant Square Park. This is the first meeting of a 12-18 month in-depth process. This first session will explain the process, and establish the boundaries for the plan.

Zoning: (Aaron Rubenstein) The Midtown Greenway Land Use Plan is now available at the city web site, with a 45-day public input period. The Parking Study is now available at Council Member Remington's web site. The Greco Lyn-Lake project is still in the planning phase; an update is scheduled for the LHENA zoning committee meeting on Weds, May 10 at 6:30. Designs for the Lander Project at 2626 Lake Street have been scaled back to a height of 84 feet, and will be presented to the City Planning Commission on April 24. Finally, the Lagoon project, now known as MoZaic, had several revisions approved by the City Planning Commission at their April 10th meeting.

Lake Street Reconstruction (Gay Noble) There will be an open house for the Lake Street Reconstruction project on May 23 & 24, 6-8 pm, at the 5th Precinct Headquarters. At present, the project is entirely a county project; the city planning department is not staffing this project. The county is proposing a 4-lane Lake St from Blaisdell to Dupont, and based on traffic volumes along this corridor, will not entertain the option for wider sidewalks by reducing the number of traffic lanes. The present planning also has Lyndale becoming 5 lanes (4 travel, 1 turning) at the Lyn-Lake intersection; this option has not been supported by neighborhood forums as it further reduces sidewalk width and widens the total walking distance to cross the street. Street-scaping along this area is an open topic, but it was pointed out that businesses along the street have to pay large assessments for the street reconstruction, and then also for installation and maintenance of any street-scaping. As part of the reconstruction, Metro Transit may remove the bus stop

at Lake and Colfax in an attempt to reduce the number of unsafe pedestrian crossings at that uncontrolled intersection, and encourage pedestrians to cross at the lights at Dupont or Bryant. Finally, Steven Eisenmenger volunteered to join this planning project as our second CARAG representative.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.