

CARAG

Calhoun Area Residents Action Group Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes February 21, 2006

Subject to Approval at the March 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: Motions were passed to approve the agenda and the January meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: (Cindy Christian) CARAG has \$11,058.82 in the operations account, \$6990.88 in asset accounts. Quarterly budget and year-to-date spending reports were distributed.

UNN Report: (Kay Nygaard-Graham) The UNN checking account has a balance of \$1837.54 as of Jan 31, 2006, and a net worth of \$4512.30.

Bryant Square Park: (Julie Sandin, park director) Ice skating season is over at the park. The city wrestling tournament is underway, and baseball sign-ups will begin shortly.

Crime Report: (Tom Thompson, community crime prevention specialist) A serial burglar has been arrested; he has admitted to 50 or 60 burglaries. Tom stressed the importance of calling 911 for any suspicious activity. Although police can't always arrive in time, sometimes they do and criminals are sometimes caught that way.

NRP Report: (Kay Nygaard-Graham, Scott Engel) The Crime & Safety Committee is establishing a "Stroll Patrol" program to walk the neighborhood as a crime prevention measure.

The Livability Committee proposed donating the proceeds from the upcoming CARAG Chilly Chili Fest to the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. Approved unanimously (Bill Morton abstained). Also, volunteers are needed to help with the CARAG Chilly Chili Fest.

Lakes Area Coalition: A new group is forming to foster communication between the neighborhoods affected by lake development. Carl Holmquist was elected as CARAG representative.

Zoning: (Aaron Rubenstein) Last month, the city council unanimously denied CARAG's appeal of the approval of the Calhoun Square development project. As discussed at last month's CARAG meeting, after the zoning & planning committee had met, the decision was made to not hire an attorney to represent CARAG in this appeal. There are two new coffee shops in the neighborhood: Dunn Brothers at Lake & Bryant, and CRC Coffee at 34th and Lyndale. No further news on the Greco Development at Lyn/Lake. The developer is tentatively planning to attend the March LHENA Land Use Committee meeting.

The Uptown Parking Study is now available, but not yet widely distributed, as it is too big to email. A condensed version is expected soon, and will be available at the Council Member Remington's city web site. Once the report has been read, a number of discussions about parking in Uptown will be ongoing.

Lake Street Reconstruction: (Gay Noble and Catherine Geisen-Kisch) Input is still being collected about the upcoming reconstruction of Lake St. The project time line requires input this spring, with the plan going to council in May, and then to the county to develop plans in August, with construction starting in Spring 2007. Specific questions for desired input include bus-stop locations, turning lanes, and bump-outs. Residents are encouraged to fill out & return the SWOC analysis handout to the CARAG office. There will also be another community visioning session, which will specifically engage the business owners affected by the project. It is tentatively planned for Monday, March 13, 5:30-7:00, at Bryant Square Park,

City Council Member Report: (Ralph Remington) Ralph is now a CARAG resident, having moved to Fremont Avenue. Starting Mar 1, the southwest sector will have a new city planner, Amanda Arnold, as our current planner, Beth Elliott, will become the downtown planner. The city garbage collection contract will be open for bids.

There will be a training session to be held on Saturday, Mar 4, at Bryant Square Park, called "Land Use Planning 101". It will introduce city land use decisions and how they are made, the policy and regulatory framework, various offices and roles involved, and terminology like 'Conditional Use Permit' and 'Variance'. Please email Ralph's office (lisa.miller@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) in advance if you would like to attend.

Midtown Greenway Area Plan: (Beth Elliott and Tom Leighton, city planning division) Beth and Tom presented an overview of the new area plan, which is nearing completion. There will be a final community meeting on this plan next Tuesday, Feb 28th, 6:30 pm, at Intermedia Arts. Several planning maps of the Greenway area, including development types, land use, and proposed public realm features were distributed and discussed.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.