

**CARAG**  
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group  
**Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2006**

*Subject to Approval at the August 2006 CARAG Meeting*

**Board Members Attending:** Rick Bojko, Ellan Meyer, Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham, Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson. (Absent: Jill Bode, Cindy Christian, Thatcher Imboden)

**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. Nominations for CARAG board positions will open at the August CARAG meeting, with elections held at the September meeting.

**Approve Agenda & Minutes:** Motions were passed to approve the agenda and June meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Scott Engel, for Cindy Christian) CARAG has \$12101.56 in the operations account, \$7089.14 in asset accounts. A FY2006 spending report and FY2007 budget was presented. \$2000 of the FY2007 CARAG budget is allocated for donations to community organizations. Any interested non-profit organizations are welcome to request funds, and make a presentation at the August CARAG meeting.

The UNN bank account has a balance of \$4087.31 as of Jun 30, 2006. The July net profit was \$2245.90; this includes significant advertising pre-payment. A Proposed UNN budget for FY 2007 was presented.

**Django Reinhardt Festival** (Ross Fefercorn) Planning is in progress for a music festival event, featuring several jazz groups playing music in the style of jazz great Django Reinhardt. The event will be in the Uptown Row parking lot, at 1221 Lake St, on Saturday, Sept 9, from about 3 until 10. Food and beverages will be available from Pizza Nea and Tum Rup Thai.

**Garden Store Coop** (Stephen Eisenmenger) A feasibility study is expected to soon be completed for the proposed Garden Store Coop, at the site of Greenstone Nursery at Bryant and 36th. Public visioning sessions will be held on Thursday, Aug 10, 7-9 at Bryant Square Park, and Saturday, Aug 12, from 10-noon, at the First Universalist Church at 3400 Dupont. For more information, visit their web site at: <http://www.gardenstorecoop.org/>

**NRP Updates** (Scott Engel, for Cindy Christian) A second announcement was made for a proposed NRP Plan Modification to be discussed and voted at the August CARAG meeting, which would move about \$81,000 from NRP strategy 1.3, Historic Housing Preservation Program, to Strategy 2.1, Rental Property Improvement Program. A minor language change would also allow condo associations and rental units to be eligible to receive funding.

The Crime & Safety Committee recommended using \$35,000 from Strategy 13.1, Front Porch and Low-Level Pedestrian Lighting, to subsidize the cost of lighting assessments for property owners along Lyndale Avenue. This utilizes existing funding dedicated for Hennepin and Lyndale lighting, which was not used during an earlier Hennepin Ave petitioning effort. Approved unanimously.

A quarterly spending update for NRP funds was presented; CARAG is approaching the 95% of Phase 1 funds contracted necessary to start the process of Phase 2 funding.

**Lake Street Reconstruction:** (Stephen Eisenmenger) Hennepin County has signed-off on the landscaping options presented at an earlier CARAG meeting for the medians at the rebuilt Lake & Dupont intersection. The city council will vote on the proposed Lake St plan on Friday.

**Council Member Remington's Report** (Ralph Remington) The Uptown Small Area Plan Steering Committee is moving forward preparing a Request for Proposals for planning consultants. Council Member Remington refused to discuss his support for the proposed design for Lake St reconstruction, and hurriedly left the meeting with no further discussion.

**Zoning:** (Aaron Rubenstein) The AfterBar Restaurant proposes to open at 913 W Lake St, with a full liquor license, and to serve liquor until 2 am, and food until 4 am. The city's public hearing for the liquor license will be Wednesday, Aug 3, 7 pm, at the YWCA at 2808 Hennepin Ave, Studio C. A CARAG Zoning Committee meeting will follow immediately.

The Calhoun Square project is nearing final site plan approval, after which construction will begin with the addition of two levels to the existing parking garage. In LHENA, the MoZaic project (Lagoon and Girard) is opening a condo sales office in the Rainbow Building next month, and hopes to break ground this fall. Developers for the proposed Hotel Uptown on Holmes Ave will present preliminary concept plans at the ECCO board meeting on Aug 3, at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. In the East Isles neighborhood, at 1514 W Lake St, the property owner is proposing to replace an existing 6-unit apartment building with a new 4-story building with ground-level retail and 3 upper-level condos. Developers from the GRECO project at Lyndale & Lake will meet with the CARAG Zoning Committee on August 15th at 6 pm, immediately prior to the next CARAG neighborhood meeting. The Uptown Small Area Plan Steering Committee met last week; discussion focused on the plan boundaries and the draft work scope/request for proposals for a planning consultant.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

**Note:** The next CARAG Neighborhood Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15 at 7 pm, at the First Universalist Church, 3400 Dupont Ave S. This location change is for the August meeting only.