

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

Subject to Approval at the April 2006 CARAG Meeting

This CARAG meeting was abbreviated due to the extended community discussion about the recent armed robbery and shooting in Uptown.

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 February meeting minutes.

NRP Updates: (Scott Engel) The Project Description and Guidelines for the newly-formed CARAG Stroll Patrol were presented and approved unanimously. An organizing event will be held soon; watch www.carag.org for details. The next meeting of the Crime & Safety Committee will be Monday, April 10, 6 pm, at Urban Bean.

Lake Street Reconstruction (Gay Noble and Catherine Geisen-Kisch) Gay and Catherine are the CARAG representatives to a sub-committee currently gathering input for the upcoming reconstruction of the western portion of Lake St, from Blaisdell to Dupont. Two visioning sessions have been held to bring forth priorities and values of the neighborhood as inputs into this reconstruction project. Several of the tools used are available at the CARAG web site, www.carag.org. The West Segment sub-committee planning group is meeting every two weeks. One current topic is the configuration of the street -- how many travel lanes, turning lanes, etc. A strong theme of the input so far has been pedestrian friendliness, such as wider sidewalks. Three resolutions were proposed on behalf of CARAG regarding the design process, calling on Hennepin County to provide further research and information on street and sidewalk design, pedestrian movement, impact on businesses, historic buildings, etc. A further resolution stated that CARAG does not support a 5-lane configuration on Lyndale Ave from 29th to 31st St. All four resolutions passed unanimously.

Minneapolis Chain of Lakes Coalition: (Carl Holmquist) Carl presented the formation statement of this new coalition being assembled with representatives from neighborhoods bordering the chain of lakes area. A resolution was passed unanimously that CARAG gives tentative support to the Chain of Lakes Coalition statement.

Upcoming Bylaws and Accounting Procedures Change: (Cindy Christian) Cindy gave notice of items to be discussed and voted on at the April 2006 CARAG meeting. A change to the UNN bylaws is proposed which clarifies voting privileges of UNN board members. Also proposed is a change to the UNN accounting procedures which modifies the invoice approval process prior to payment.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Due to time limitations, the following board actions were addressed in advance by the full CARAG board:

Treasurer's Report: (Cindy Christian) CARAG has \$8859.19 in the operations account, \$6990.88 in asset accounts. The contributions to local charities, as approved last Fall, were distributed this month. In addition the proceeds from the CARAG Chilly Chili fest, about \$650, were forwarded to the Joyce Food Shelf. The UNN account has a balance of \$1213.16 as of Feb 28, 2006.

Board Actions: The board unanimously approved the addition of Jill Bode as a third signatory to the UNN account. The board unanimously approved our "Client Response" to the MN State Auditor's Report, which noted only 3 small suggestions. Finally, the board voted unanimously to renew the lease on our CARAG office space for another year. This is paid using NRP funds.