

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

Subject to Approval at the December 2006 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Attending: Jill Bode, Rick Bojko (Vice President), Stephen Eisenmenger (Secretary), Anna Matthes, Bill Morton, Dan Qualy, Aaron Rubenstein, and Howard Verson (President). (Absent: Ellan Meyer)

Introductions & Announcements: 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.

Community Crime Prevention/SAFE Update: (CPS Tom Thompson, Marie Przynski) The 33XX-34XX area of Lyndale Ave has seen a recent spike in robberies. The police have good persons of interest in these cases. A review of crime data has shown the most common times for robberies are 6-8 pm, and 10-midnight. The most common days are Saturdays and Tuesdays. In general, the trend is positive for crime reduction, the percentage increase should be less than double digits by the end of the year. Specific questions about a business robbery at Lake and Irving yesterday, the cluster of crimes around the SA on Lake and Aldrich, and garage burglaries seem to have subsided. With holidays coming up, the police recommend not putting presents out for display within easy view of windows, and to be aware of identity theft from mail, garbage or recycling, especially with credit card offers – using a paper shredder is recommended. Also avoid placing obvious boxes from new computers, TVs, etc out for recycling – don't advertise your new purchases to potential thieves. Break down the boxes and fold them inside-out for recycling.

Council Member Remington's Report: (Ralph Remington) A Ward 10 newsletter is now available; sign up at the Ward 10 website (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward10/>). For new street lighting, a city-wide moratorium, in effect since 2002, may be lifted by the end of 2007 with the completion of a study process. The Uptown Small Area Plan visioning sessions held in November were a big success, with 100 people in the first session, 200 in the second. A summary report is being prepared. Ralph held a press conference on Police Union physical threats that occurred on October 26th. Ralph is optimistic that the newly-elected state and federal legislatures will benefit the city, perhaps some restoration of cut Local Government Aid. He is also encouraged by the approval of Instant Runoff Voting in the city, and the state transportation amendment. He is available in CARAG for meetings on Monday afternoons; call the Ward 10 office, 612-673-2210. Monthly "Breakfast with Ralph" will be the 3rd Monday of every month, 8 AM at the Egg & I. Next month's topic: smoking ban update.

Approve Agenda & Minutes: A motion was passed to approve the amended agenda. Approval of the October meeting minutes was tabled pending updates and corrections.

Bryant Square Park Report: (Julie Sandin) Ice Skating coming soon.

Treasurer's Report: (Jill Bode) As of October 31, CARAG has \$14,181.56 in the operations account, \$7,106.80 in asset accounts. Neighborhood votes approved the FY2007 CARAG Accounting Procedures, and then the FY2007 UNN Accounting Procedures. All CARAG volunteers must sign and return the new Conflict of Interest forms as approved last month.

The UNN bank account balance as of October 31 was \$4,055.57; the October issue net loss was \$40.17.

Proposed UNN By Laws Change: (Kay Nygaard Graham) A motion was made to amend the UNN and CARAG Bylaws regarding membership on the UNN Managing Board; the motion failed.

NRP Updates: (Skyler Weinand) The Housing & Economic Development Committee recommended contract amendments for the CARAG "1-3 Unit", "4+ Unit" and "Historic Preservation loan programs and an NRP Plan Modification making a minor text revision directing future Program Income from the "4+ Unit" and "Historic Preservation" loan programs to the "1-3 Unit" program to fund additional program loans. This procedural update was approved by neighborhood vote and board vote of 8-0 (1 absent).

NRP Phase I Evaluation Survey - 4000 were mailed, 318 have been returned and results are being tabulated. A random drawing of surveys returned was held for two \$25 gift certificates.

NRP Policy Board Elector and Alternate – For the upcoming NRP policy board elections, each neighborhood sends a representative to vote. Kay Nygaard Graham was elected as the CARAG Elector, with Cindy Christian as alternate.

Zoning: (Aaron Rubenstein) City actions have approved a parking variance for Restaurant Miami, and the new North Face store. A re-zoning application from the home owner at 3552 Aldrich Ave to rezone the property for use as a duplex was brought forward from the CARAG Zoning Committee with no recommendation. By neighborhood vote, CARAG recommends approval of this rezoning application.

The city's Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan is open for public review until December 15. Aaron proposed a CARAG response critical of the plan's lack of height limits on future building near proposed transit hubs. This proposal was approved as CARAG's plan response.

Energy Challenge: (Eric Gustafson) Eric Gustafson, representing the Center for Energy & Environment, presented the Minnesota Energy Challenge. The Challenge features a website: <http://mnenergychallenge.org/> which provides simple tools to assess your energy usage, and many suggestions on how to reduce that energy use. The environmental and economic impact of those reductions is tallied, and participants can identify themselves with "teams", including the CARAG neighborhood, and compare how our neighborhood is doing at energy savings relative to other neighborhoods.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.