

CARAG

Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
DRAFT (subject to approval at the May CARAG meeting)

April 17, 2007

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

Welcome: The 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 or carag@carag.org. CARAG is a democratic organization; membership and voting privileges are open to neighborhood residents, property owners, and business owners. Congratulations to Stephen and Molly Eisenmenger on the birth of their son Nico this past weekend!

Crime & Safety: Tom Thompson, Community Crime Prevention Specialist, reported that crime is up significantly in the last month, due to an increase in burglaries. The CARAG, Lyndale, and Kingfield neighborhoods are working together on the Court Watch program to monitor area arrests and cases. Volunteers are needed. Sentencing may be affected by Community Impact Statements that can be filled out by any person who feels affected by the crime, whether or not that person actually witnessed the crime.

Consent Agenda: A motion passed to approve the agenda, the CARAG Operations financial report, and the March meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: (Jill Bode) CARAG has \$11,592.26 in the bank account and \$7,106.80 in asset accounts. Total balance as of 3-31-07 is \$18,699.06. The register report showed actual inflows of \$551.79 and outflows of \$2,065.12 (mostly 06-07 contributions) for the month of March.

UNN Financial Report: (Anna Matthes) The March profit and loss statement showed a net profit of \$118.11. The March balance sheet shows \$3,815.48 total equity. The March register report showed inflows of \$745.64 and outflows of \$2,577.91, with a total balance of \$803.23 as of 3-31-07. Advertisers owe about \$1300 in past due accounts.

Minutes: A motion passed to require the word "draft" to appear at the beginning of all meeting minutes until the minutes have been officially approved.

NRP Updates: (Scott Engel) The *Crime and Safety Committee* is celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Stroll Patrol with a kick off event on April 26. Meet at Bryant Square Park at 6:30pm to tour a police squad car and find out more about how you can participate in the Stroll Patrol. Go on patrol at 7pm and end up at Pizza Nea (1221 W Lake Street) for pizza and refreshments at 7:45pm.

The *Housing and Economic Development Committee* held the 4+ Unit Matching Deferred Loan Program lottery on April 15. The first 15 entry forms drawn will be processed. The city's Public Works department has vetoed the committee's vision for improving the Lake/Lagoon/Dupont intersection with trees. This issue will be revisited at another meeting with Public Works.

The *Livability Committee* will sponsor a free rain garden workshop on May 2, 6:30pm at Bryant Square Park. The neighborhood garage sale and plant swap will be May 19.

Zoning: (Aaron Rubenstein) *Amazing Thailand* is requesting a liquor license. The city's public hearing for this has not yet been scheduled. *Tum Rup Thai* will be appealing to extend their outdoor seating hours to match the current indoor hours. The next *Uptown Small Area Plan* community meeting will be May 24 from 7-9pm at Calhoun Square (where Border's used to be). *Calhoun Square* is still for sale. The City Council passed *Hotel Uptown's* variance appeal to allow a greater FAR (floor area ratio) than originally granted by the city's Planning Commission.

Anytime Fitness (Lake & Dupont) wants a Conditional Use Permit from the city to allow 24-hour operation of a workout facility that would be mostly unstaffed (entry via key cards).

Business Associations: (Bill Morton) The Uptown Association's new Executive Director will start work on April 30. There are three committees within the association: Special Services; Art Fair; and Membership Recruitment. Issues such as panhandling, graffiti, and excess newspaper boxes were discussed at their meeting.

The Lyn-Lake Business Association discussed the Lake Street Reconstruction Project at their meeting. There will be weekly meetings with contractors on the project. Buses will be diverted to 31st Street and it is possible that parking will be limited to one side of 31st Street.

Council Member's Report: (Ralph Remington) The *Lake Street Reconstruction Project* has a tentative start date of early to mid-May. The city is revising the *Comprehensive Plan*, dealing with sustainability, heritage preservation, and urban design. There will be three meetings to discuss this, each following the same agenda (April 28, May 1, and May 17).

Remington supports a proposal by CM Betsy Hodges that seeks to limit the size of *McMansions* in R1 through R3 districts. This would decrease maximum lot coverage from 60% to 50% and decrease maximum height from 35' to 30' measured from the base to the mid-point of the roof.

Scott Dibble and Remington are planning to hold a town hall meeting within the next three weeks to discuss chemicals found in Blue Gill fish in Lake Calhoun.

Remington fielded questions and comments about the Hotel Uptown project in which some people felt the developers used bait-and-switch tactics to get approval for a larger building without providing public parking (as had been proposed at a prior meeting in ECCO).

The 31st Street project slated for 2010 in which new over-the-street traffic signals will be installed hasn't moved on the CLIC list. CARAG sent a letter saying we preferred the type of traffic signals already in place. Remington will find out if there is an update on this project.

Community members are encouraged to call 311 to log complaints. Ask for a reference number to follow-up later.

Amy Duncan is Remington's new front desk associate.

CARAG By-Laws: (Rick Bojko) Two draft documents being worked on in committee were presented to gather feedback. The CARAG Committee Policy is a new document intended to be reviewed annually in a manner similar to the Accounting Procedures. There are numerous revisions proposed to the CARAG Constitution and By-Laws. While most of the changes are meant to improve clarity, the main area of disagreement will likely be whether the Board or the neighborhood will be invested with decision-making authority.

Announcements: The annual Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting is scheduled for June 13 from 6-9pm in Campiello's parking lot on Girard and Lagoon. This is CARAG's big fundraiser! We raised about \$4,500 through ticket sales last year. CARAG receives 100% of the proceeds of the tickets that we sell, and a lesser percentage from tickets sold at the door. Tickets cost \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. CARAG volunteers are needed to sell advance tickets and to work at the event.

An East Isles resident announced a community event with music and food, Carnival de Solidaridado, slated for June 2 on James Avenue between Lake and Lagoon.

Adjourn

Board President

Board Secretary