

CARAG Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes December 20th, 2007

Board Members Attending: Ellen Meyer (Vice-President), Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard Graham (President), Dan Qualy (interim-secretary), Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson. **Absent:** Anna Matthes (Treasurer), Jamie Ronnei

Introduction & Announcements: (Kay Nygaard-Graham)

A letter was read from Council Member Remington stating that attending neighborhood monthly meetings in the 10th Ward is a commitment he (Remington) can no longer make, but that he will attend neighborhood meetings quarterly, beginning in March, as well as annual meetings.

A motion was passed to make Howard Verson CARAG's representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition.

A motion was passed making resident Scott Scheifelbein a member of the CARAG Board, filling a vacant seat.

Consent Agenda & Minutes: (Kay Nygaard-Graham)

The agenda was approved. There will be a layover for November's Minutes to the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: (Scott Engel) CARAG has \$13,364.91 in the bank account and \$7,187.20 in asset accounts. The total balance 11/30/07 is \$20,552.11. Approved.

Crime & Safety MPD Update:

(Tom Thompson and Lt. Marie Przynski) Overall crime in the Fifth Precinct was cut in half from this time last year, down 18%, though burglaries continue to rise. Please continue keeping your windows and doors locked, and have a happy and safe holiday season!

Community Engagement & NRP's Future (Matt Perry)

Matt Perry, President of East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association (EHFNA) and Co-Chair of the Community Engagement Task Force, spoke about the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) in Minneapolis.

Mr. Perry expects that the city will continue funding neighborhood organizations after 2009, but NRP will no longer exist as we know it today, primarily in that there will be no governing body. Phase II of NRP will not have funding, but will still exist as an entity, because there are still certain activities, home loans for example, that must be monitored and funded. Mr. Perry said he thinks Hennepin Cnty and the City of Mpls will jointly fund future NRP programs.

Mr. Perry described a process that was initiated last fall that was intended to examine options and propose actions for consideration by the Committee of the Whole at its meeting on December 20, 2007. Mr. Perry went on to explain that the Committee of the Whole would weigh in on December 20th with a more complete analysis. The main point is that he was hoping the Committee of the Whole would endorse the following four points: (1) to recommend funding continue as it does today in order for neighborhood organizations to function like normal, (2) that there will be an extensive public comment period lasting at least the first two months of 2008, (3) that neighborhood organizations will be more directly involved in the input and the process, and (4) that neighborhood organizations will be able to plan and execute Phase I and Phase II plans knowing the at least 70% of the money will be there to do it beyond 2009, and that the "light switch on NRP will not simply be switched off at the end of 2009."

Those interested in staying informed with Community Engagement may look for rebroadcasts on Cable Channel 79, or go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp .

NRP Updates:

The new NRP Steering Committee is still seeking participants! Currently, those members are Kay Nygaard Graham, Ellen Meyer, Dan Qualy, James Ronnei, Aaron Rubenstein & Howard Verson. The next meeting will be in early Jan.

CARAG partnered with the Park Board using the Bryant Square Park Master Plan to develop an improvements list that can be implemented using NRP funds and Park Board resources. The Public Outdoor Performance Space (POPS) construction is mostly complete and will be dedicated in Spring 2008. The POPS will allow for small music and theatre performances in the park.

CARAG has been working with Public Works, LHENA, and the Uptown Association to develop a vision to improve the "Break in Lake" (Lake/Lagoon/Dupont intersection). This includes landscaping the concrete medians and adding other improvements to make a more pedestrian-friendly area. Public Works now endorses a design which includes some new boulevard trees and greenery.

The CARAG membership will be asked to vote on a proposition brought by Scott Engel in November. The proposition

is to reallocate \$82,668 from various NRP Full Action Plan strategies to Strategy 22.1 Implementation to fund future administrative costs for the CARAG organization.

The Board approved the 2008 CARAG Event Calendar, and is as follows:

- CARAG Chili Fest - Sunday, February 24th, 2008
- Plant Swap - Saturday, April 26th, 2008
- Super Sale, the Neighborhood garage sale - Saturday, May 17, 2008
- Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting - Wednesday, June 11th, 2008
- Garden Tour - Saturday, Monday & Wednesday, June 21, 23 & 25, 2008
- Hennepin Hazardous Waste Disposal Day - Saturday, June 28th, 2008
- Bryant Square Park Ice Cream Social - Wednesday, July 9th, 2008
- Uptown Art Fair - Friday, Saturday & Sunday, August 1st, 2nd & 3rd, 2008
- CARAG Annual Meeting - Tuesday, September 16th, 2008
- Architecture & Preservation Tour - Saturday, October 4th, 2008

Zoning Committee Report: (Aaron Rubenstein)

Council Member Ralph Remington has proposed amendments to the City's Liquor Store Ordinance (Chapter 362.40). The primary amendment is to allow for an exception to the 2,000 feet distance requirement for locations that are zoned C3A (Community Activity Center) and one per block face for establishments that sell wine only. The C3As in Minneapolis include both the immediate Uptown and Lyn-Lake commercial districts.

Calhoun Square is hoping to submit their renovation plans this week to get on the city's February Planning Commission hearing.

The Uptown Small Area Plan Public Hearing has been delayed from the December 17th to Monday, January 14th 2008, at 4:30pm.

The CARAG Zoning Committee met with owners of El Meson restaurant, who plan on opening a new restaurant called Indio. The primary topic of discussion was hours of operation, both inside and out. Indio has a small four-seat bar, a small performance stage, and will be requesting a full liquor license, as well as a 1am closing time.

A new coffee & gelato shop has been proposed for the current Panaroma Video site on the corner of Lake & Bryant. Panaroma is still there, but has downsized and will no longer be on the immediate corner of its building. A parking variance will most likely be needed.

A local developer has proposed an 8-story residential development on the former Acme factory site, along the Midtown Greenway. Although the proposed building would be 8 stories high, its height would only be 84 feet. Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA) recommended against the project.

Proposed Critical Parking District (Aaron Rubenstein, Scott Devens)

Council Member Remington's plan to incorporate the current permit parking zone (Fremont and Emerson between Lake Street and 31st) into his proposed larger permit parking zone (Girard, Fremont & Emerson Avenues between Lake Street & 33rd Streets) was dropped after meeting strong opposition from residents living in the current zone regarding the change in restricted hours, causing some community members to argue its unfair for those residents to not be affected. In response, Scott Devens, who lives in the current permit parking zone, handed out copies of the Minneapolis city ordinance which addresses critical parking areas within Minneapolis, putting emphasis on several clear points showing that residents in the current permit parking zone have every reasonable right to keep their current parking zone hours unaffected. Emphasis was also put on the ordinance section which states that 75% of a block's residents in support of permit parking for their own block is required for residents to apply for their own permit parking area. Mr. Devens made a brief summary of the ordinance details and took a few questions.

It was discussed whether or not CARAG should take a position on the 75% support issue, and a motion passed to revisit the issue at the January CARAG meeting.

Uptown Business Association Update (Bill Morton)

The U.B.A. is having their Annual meeting on Tuesday, January 15th 2008, 10am at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. Hennepin County Rich Stanek will be attending.

YWCA intends to do internal remodeling in six to nine months, making the building more eco-friendly. However, plans to incorporate a new library site seem unlikely.

Adjourn (Vote): Approved.