

CARAG

Calhoun Area Residents Action Group Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes JANUARY 16, 2007

Subject to Approval at the February 2007 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Attending: Rick Bojko (Vice President), Stephen Eisenmenger (Secretary), Ellan Meyer, Bill Morton, Dan Qualy, Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson (President), Jill Bode, and Anna Matthes (None Absent)

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.

Crime & Safety MPD Update: (Tom Thompson) 32-33XX Lyndale evening robberies have stopped since the arrest of 3 juveniles. If people would remove their valuables, such as iPods, laptops and cell phones from their parked cars, it would reduce larcenies dramatically. A Court Watch program will be rolled out over the next couple months. Prosecution rates for stolen cars are low; stolen car recovery rates are pretty high.

Introductions & Announcements (Howard Verson)

Approve Consent Agenda (Howard Verson) (Vote)

- Treasurer's Report: UNN December Net Loss was \$362.66, Total Equity stands at \$5450.18. CARAG Assets and Bank Accounts stand at \$20,827.06. Approved.

Approve & Sign Minutes, Howard Verson (Vote)

- October, November & December meeting minutes. Amendments were accepted and the minutes approved.

CARAG By-Laws (Rick Bojko) (Update) First Meeting was set up for 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Thursday the 25th of January at Bryant Square Park. Purpose is to review the CARAG Constitution and Bylaws and Procedures with an aim to make recommendations for suggested changes. This will subsequently be presented for discussion and voting at future CARAG neighborhood meetings.

NRP Updates

- NRP Phase I Evaluation/Survey Results (Scott Engel) (Update) Data was compiled from the NRP Phase I survey that was mailed out last October. Survey results will be presented by Jen Walsh, a CARAG volunteer and survey research professional, at the February 20 CARAG Meeting. The Phase I review must be completed before CARAG can begin NRP Phase II.

Uptown Art Fair Parking Lots (Nancy Sjoquist) (Vote) CARAG has been asked to provide volunteers at three parking lots. It would take an additional 10 volunteers on top of the 30 we have provided for the pop booth. We would get an additional \$1500 for providing these volunteers. Motion presented to take this on. Motion passed.

Computer Security Workshop (David Peterson) (Vote) Motion made to approve sending David Peterson to a MCTC Computer Security class. Motion passed.

Zoning & Land Use Committee Report (Aaron Rubenstein) 1) Uptown Small Area Plan community meeting Thurs., Feb. 8, 7 to 9 pm in former Border's bookshop space in Calhoun Square. Consultants will report on existing conditions. Community invited to provide input on Uptown's physical strengths and weaknesses. Planning process will move quickly, with several more community meetings in spring and summer and a completed draft plan around September. 2) Article in StarTribune Jan. 13 said that Calhoun Square expansion project is on hold due to soft housing market and that owners are evaluating options for how to proceed. It appears parking ramp expansion will start in March nonetheless. 3) Hotel Uptown, 3017-27 Holmes Av., at City Council Zoning and Planning (Z&P) Committee Jan. 18 for waiver of Uptown building height moratorium (6 stories/63.5 ft. proposed, 4 stories/56 ft. allowed "as of right"). City staff recommends approval. 4) Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan also at Z&P Jan. 18.

Council Member Remington's Report (Discussion) Newsletter Sign Up Sheet passed around. Uptown Small Area Plan, Feb 8th, 7-9 p.m. at old Border's Bookstore in Calhoun Square. Happy Hour with Ralph, Jan 26th, 5:30-6:30, Leaning Tower of Pizza for open ended discussions. Gigi's 15 minute appointments, 2-4 p.m. on Mondays.

Calhoun Square development plans may be changing. The condo market is softening. It might become apartments; it might become two-story retail. Residents can write letters about Calhoun Square to Principal Financial about what the neighborhood wants to see in a development and/or how the uncertainty impacts the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to keep their messages positive. Contacts: Joe Pierce, Regional Director, Principal Real Estate Investors, 801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50392 and Rick Strawn, Senior Asset Manager, Principal Real Estate Investors, 801 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50392. Letters have to be delivered by the end of January to have any impact whatsoever.

Midtown Greenway Land Use Plan is going to the Zoning and Planning this week. Ralph is going to try to extend the time to review the plan. A motion was made to have CARAG support efforts to extend the time to review the plan to allow for community notice and input on the final version of the Plan. The motion language passed was "CARAG supports layover of the Midtown Greenway Land Use and Development Plan to allow unresolved issues to be addressed with significant community input."

Announcements: A CARAG Photo Exhibit will take place during the Chilly Chili Fest. There will be two classifications of photos within CARAG and photos taken outside of CARAG. CARAG residents are encouraged to consider displaying a photo or two. Details will be available at the February CARAG meeting and on the CARAG website.

Adjourn (Vote)

CARAG Stroll Patrol

Did not go out due to lack of participants and possibly due to an outside temperature of minus 1.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

* Next CARAG Neighborhood Meeting Tuesday, February 20, 2007 7pm @ Bryant Square Park

* CARAG Chilly Chili Fest Sunday, February 25, 2007 12:30-3:00 pm @ Bryant Square Park