

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
MARCH 20, 2007

Subject to Approval at the April 2007 CARAG Meeting

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

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.

Introductions & Announcements (Howard Verson)

Approve Consent Agenda (Howard Verson)

- Treasurer's Report: (Jill Bode) UNN February Net Loss was \$703.81, Total Equity stands at \$3,699.37. CARAG Assets and Bank Accounts stand at \$20,208.91. Approved.

Approve & Sign Minutes, Howard Verson (Vote)

- February meeting minutes. Amended to include Aaron Rubenstein's Zoning and Land Use Report. Approved.

Crime & Safety MPD Update: (Tom Thompson/Marie Przynski) 5th Precinct Report: 72% of garages and homes that were burglarized last week were not locked. 80% of cars stolen last week were running with the doors unlocked. Crime and Safety Committee is looking for volunteers for Court Watch, Scott Engel is working on a job description. Five robbery suspects from last month were apprehended. Motion made to reply to an email from Rick Nelson, owner of Champions, stating that our notes from last month represent the comments from Marie Przynski.

CARAG Office Lease, Scott Engel (Vote) Lease runs from April 1st, 2007 to March 31st, 2008 at \$362.25/month. Approved. The Finance Committee will be exploring new office space to match CARAG needs as NRP funding for CARAG Staff continues to decline in 2007 and 2008.

NRP Updates Cindy Christian

Revised 4+ Loan Program Lottery Procedures, (Vote) Approved

Public Outdoor Performance SPACE (POPS) Design Representatives (Vote) Recommended: Diana Boegemann and Bob Groethe; David Omer (Alternate) Approved

NRP Phase I Evaluation Survey Results, Jen Walsh (Update)

25th Annual Community Wine Tasting Benefit The Tasting is on for Wednesday, June 13th, 2007 from 6-9 p.m. in Campiello's parking lot and CARAG will be providing volunteers. CARAG received about \$4500 last year. CARAG receives 100% of the ticket sales we sell. This is the biggest fundraiser for CARAG operations. We need volunteers to sell tickets and volunteer at the event (volunteers have to purchase their own ticket for the event). Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Council Member Remington's Report (Discussion) Monthly Email Newsletter signup is available. April 16th Breakfast with Ralph at Egg & I from 8-9 am with School Superintendent Bill Green. Monday Gigi's appointments 2-4 pm are available, call Ralph's office to set up an appointment, 673-2210. Happy Hour with Ralph is the last Friday at Leaning Tower of Pizza, 5:30 to 6:30. Circus Animal Ban has been proposed by Ralph along with Cam Gordon (Ward 2). Calhoun Square is up for sale, no details provided, it's up in the air as to what will happen. A Planned Use Development (PUD) change is to be proposed in the future. The PUD relates to 2 acre continuous parcels of land. Revisiting this requires a Council action and this has been brought to the Council's attention by City staff. Too often, too many variances are required. The parcel size might be lowered or other changes might happen to bring better quality projects to the city.

CARAG By-Laws Review Rick Bojko (Update) The CARAG Constitution & Bylaws Revision Working Group has worked on the second round of changes—this month related to committees and creating an annual review of a new Committee Policy. The next meeting for this working group will be Tuesday, April 10th, 2007 at Bryant Square Park, 7-8:30 pm. Contact Rick Bojko for questions, rjb5@cornell.edu, the current constitution and bylaws are posted at www.carag.org.

Zoning Committee Report Aaron Rubenstein (Update) Uptown Small Area Plan community meeting Sat. March 24, 9 to 11 am at Calhoun Square. Planning Commission approved plans for Hotel Uptown March 5 with a number of variances. City Council extended Uptown Height Moratorium for six months and approved Midtown Greenway Plan. Update on Amazing Thailand liquor license application.

Business Associations Report, Bill Morton (Update) Bill was unable to attend the Uptown Business Association because the subject matter was personnel related. Lyn-Lake Business Association had Jim Grube from Hennepin County talk about Lake Street re-construction project (Dupont to Blaisdell). It's possible the project can be completed in 2007, but it's unlikely. Scott Engel reported on the Break in Lake and the City's Public Works Dept. vetoed all the trees CARAG and LHENA proposed.

Community Input & Announcements (Update) The City of Minneapolis and the EPA have partnered to sponsor Rain Barrels and they are for sale for \$45 (about half the retail price), available for ordering from the Reuse Center and pick up after May 1st. <http://site.mawebcenters.com/thereusecenter/rainbarrels.html> CARAG Livability Committee is sponsoring a Rain Garden Workshop put on by a Hennepin County Master Gardner on May 2nd, 6:30-8:30 pm at Bryant Square Park. Rain Garden workshops are being put on by www.MetroBlooms.org (previously Minneapolis Blooms), participants can get a \$65 rebate for native plant purchases.

Adjourn (Vote) Approved.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

* Next CARAG Neighborhood Meeting Tuesday, April 17, 2007 7pm @ Bryant Square Park