

CARAG Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes November 20th, 2007

DRAFT: Subject to Approval at the December 2007 CARAG Meeting.

Board Members Attending: Kay Nygaard Graham (President), Anna Matthes, Dan Qualy (interim-secretary), Jaime Ronnie, Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson. Absent: Bill Morton, Ellan Meyer (Vice-President).

Introduction & Announcements: (Kay Nygaard-Graham)

Peter Scherling has resigned from the CARAG Board; there is an vacant position on the Board.

Consent Agenda & Minutes: (Kay Nygaard-Graham)

Both items approved:

Treasurer's Report: (Anna Mathes) CARAG has \$14,574.60 in the bank account and \$7,187.20 in asset accounts. Total balance as of 10/31/07 is \$21,761.80.

Approve & Sign Minutes, Kay Nygaard-Graham.

Crime & Safety MPD Update:

(Tom Thompson and Lt. Marie Przynski) Light businesses, such as coffee shops and corner stores in particular, could be targeted for robbery over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Caribou Coffee seems to be the hottest target, but robbers are not picky about victims. Also, burglaries rose by 27% over the last month precinct-wide. Przynski continues to remind residents to lock your doors and windows, as these result in 70% of area burglaries.

Council Member Remington's Report:

Council Member Ralph Remington was unable to attend the monthly meeting. Remington's aide Kim Malrick attended in his absence and made the following report:

Among the many things he is working on, Ralph's top priorities in the next month include finding ways to use police overtime funds efficiently, and hopefully restoring 70% of NRP funding through 2009.

Also, Critical Parking (permit-parking) has been proposed for Girard and Fremont Avenues and the west side of Emerson Avenue between 31st Street and 33rd Street. The proposed plan would require vehicles parked on these streets between 6pm and 2am, Monday through Saturday, to have a parking permit. The plan would not affect vehicles parked on 32nd and 33rd Streets. A community meeting will be held December 3rd, 7pm-8:30pm, at Joyce Methodist Church (corner of 31st & Fremont) to answer residents' questions and discuss the issue further. If 75% of the residents within the zone agree with the permit-parking proposal, an official petition will be submitted to the city. Residents living within the zone were also delivered purple pamphlets, located on residents' doorsteps, on November 20th giving notice of the meeting.

Kim Malrick reminds residents that the 45 day review period for the Uptown Small Area plan ends December 21st.

Calhoun Square Redevelopment (update)

Jim Larson, Capital Growth Madison Marquette, and Bill Wittrock, RSP Architects,

Jim Larson: Our priorities are to remodel and revitalize primarily the existing Calhoun Square mall as quickly as possible, to expand the ramp as quickly as possible, and to work on (planning the) expansion phases. We plan to start light construction on the ramp yet this year and start major construction, adding two levels, after January 1. We plan to submit applications to the city in the first half of December, go to the Planning Commission in late January, and start mall construction in the spring.

Bill Wittrock: Have tried to integrate the building with the street and people. Have incorporated a number of elements from the small area plan. Stores will open directly onto the sidewalks. New buildings will be set back to create wider sidewalks. The Girard Meander becomes an outdoor gathering space. Famous Dave's and Starbucks will remain where they are, as will the north and south loading docks. There will be a new two-story building on Hennepin, to replace the existing three-story building which Kitchen Window is located in, and a new three-story building on Lake St. between Figlio and Girard Avenue. The Lake Street building (54 ft. proposed, 56 ft. permitted) will have a restaurant on the first floor, a health club on the upper

two floors, and an entrance to the mall from Girard. The Girard Meander, midblock, will have a pedestrian zone at the center, with special paving, a restaurant zone on the west, and a flexible activity area adjacent to the ramp for farmers markets, the art fair, etc. The only vehicular access will be for emergency vehicles.

Wittrock and Larson: Looking at options for expansion phases (at 31st and Hennepin, Lake between Fremont and Girard), still see street-level retail and mixed-use above--studying feasibility of residential, office, and hotel.

Howard Verson said he thinks the plan is headed in the right direction but the community has lost the outdoor plaza and he would like to see more in the public realm, a bit more public space at the edges. Community members expressed a number of concerns and questions.

NRP Updates:

Motion passed to approve NRP Participation Agreement (with revised timeline). CARAG is seeking up to three additional members to participate on the NRP Steering Committee. Scott Engel presented a proposal 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 CARAG membership will be asked to vote on this issue at the January CARAG Neighborhood Meeting one the required 30-day notification is complete.

UNN Managing Board Bylaws Revision:

The UNN Managing Board approved a change to its bylaws and requests CARAG's approval. The change would amend article #12 of the UNN Bylaws to state that "Independent contractors working for the paper shall not be members of the UNN Managing Board." Discussion brought mixed reactions from some residents. A motion to ratify the change was made and seconded, and the motion passed 8 to 4.

Uptown Neighborhood News Rep:

CARAG resident and past Board member Jill Bode accepted a nomination to serve another two-year term on the UNN Managing Board, filling the board's vacant seat.

UNN Treasurer's Report: (Anna Matthes)

UNN will start paying calendar editor.

Zoning Committee Report: (Aaron Rubenstein)

Owners of El Meson Restaurant (35th & Lyndale) plan to open a new Mexican Cuisine restaurant at the former Pizza Nea location.

Motion made to approve a statement as amended on the Uptown Small Area Plan focusing on some of its primary aspects, both positive and critical. The motion passed unanimously. The Statement reflects CARAG's overall concerns. Individuals are strongly encouraged to send their own comments to amanda.arnold@ci.minneapolis.mn.us as soon as possible, and prior to December 17 Planning Commission public hearing.

CARAG Committee & Personnel Policies (vote)

Approved unanimously.

Adjourn (Vote):

Approved.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

The next CARAG Neighborhood Meeting is Tuesday, December 18th, 2007, 7pm at Bryant Square Park. We hope to see you there!