

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
15 APRIL 2008

DRAFT: Subject to Approval at the May 2008 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Attending: Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham (President), Aaron Rubenstein, Scott Schiefelbein, Howard Verson.

Absent: Brendan Jordan, Anna Matthes, Ellan Meyer, Jamie Ronnei

Crime and Safety: Lt. Jack Kelly and Tom Thompson, MPD Fifth Precinct
Lt. Kelly is the new 5th Precinct- Sector 2 Lieutenant replacing Marie Przynski. Burglaries in the precinct are down dramatically year-to-date compared to last year. However, theft from motor vehicles is up almost 15% for the period. Lock car doors and hide valuables in the trunk.

Kay Graham noted that she has taken a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course and would like to initiate a 6-member team in CARAG. CERT teams assist emergency personnel by responding to emergencies first in their immediate area.

CARAG Email List, Scott Schiefelbein:

Schiefelbein presented the concept of starting a new email list for CARAG using e-list services such as Constant Contact. Such services would allow the organization to better manage the list and provide nicer looking email communication than the existing CARAG Forum Yahoo Group. There is also the potential for surveys, which may come in handy with the NRP Phase II planning process. The cost is around \$15 per month with potential discounts and a 60-day free trial. There was general agreement that this concept is worth pursuing, so Schiefelbein will look further into options and report back at the May meeting.

Midtown Greenway Coalition (MGC), Howard Verson:

Verson, CARAG's rep on the Midtown Greenway Coalition Board, presented an update about the organization's activities. MGC will move their offices to the Bike Center located on the Greenway near the Midtown Global Market in May. They will share space with Freewheel Bike Shop. Verson noted that all development proposals along the Greenway have been presented to both MGC and Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association. Hennepin County is still working on their environmental study of the Greenway in regards to Light Rail Transit.

CARAG Transportation Committee, Howard Verson

Verson presented the idea of restarting the Transportation Committee if there is enough interest from volunteers. He noted the City has Bike and Pedestrian improvements grant funds available, and that the committee would work to apply for a project. Motion, Seconded: to endorse the creation of a CARAG Transportation Committee. Approved unanimously.

Minutes, Kay Graham

Graham noted a change to item #13 regarding the office move.
Motion, Seconded: to approve the minutes of the March 18 CARAG Neighborhood Meeting.
Approved unanimously.

CARAG Operations Treasurer's Report,

Scott Engel presented the report. Checking has a balance of \$13,224.05 and asset accounts are valued at \$7,107.20 for a total of \$20,411.25. Engel noted a budget report detailing income and expenses for the first half of CARAG's fiscal year. He also noted that the Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting is still set for Wednesday, June 11, and is CARAG's biggest fundraiser.

Uptown Neighborhood News Treasurer's Report, Kay Graham:

UNN Checking has \$5,901.78 with \$5,436.29 in accounts receivable. UNN had a profit of \$1,457.93 in March 08.

Zoning Committee, Aaron Rubenstein:

Rubenstein reported that:

- 1015 W. Lake (the proposed Verizon Wireless store) will be presented to the Planning Commission on April 28.
- MoZaic (development at 29th & Girard) will be presented to the Planning Commission on April 28. The new proposal includes first-floor restaurants, apartments, an above ground parking ramp, and offices. The condo and hotel components are no longer planned.
- The first Lyn Lake Small Area Plan steering committee meeting is April 23.
- Proposed development on the former Bonnet Lumber site is on-hold.
- Representatives from Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) presented plans for the Lehman Center at the Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association zoning committee meeting. MPS will move two youth programs out of the school this year leaving Community Ed and adult education offices. MPS is in the process of completing a study of what to do with extra administration and school buildings- including Lehman. One possibility would be to sell the Lehman Center for development, and the City's economic development department would be in charge of the marketing and sale. Rubenstein will call a Zoning Committee meeting in early May to discuss this issue and bring back details to the May CARAG Neighborhood Meeting.
- Calhoun Square was approved by the Planning Commission on March 31st. He noted that CARAG's feedback led to additional improvements to the proposed building including a wider plaza and corridor.

NRP: Scott Engel

Engel noted several CARAG Events coming up in the next month:

- CARAG Plant Swap: Sunday, April 26, 9:30-10am @ Urban Earth Co-op
- CARAG Stroll Patrol Kick Off: Sunday, April 27, 2pm- Meet @ Bryant Square Park
- CARAG Super Sale: Saturday, May 17, 8am-4pm

Public Works has said they will not allow the Break in Lake Project to move forward without the commitment of the Uptown Special Services District to take on maintenance costs. They consider alternative strategies to maintaining the project not to be a long-term solution. This may be an item to discuss with the Transportation Committee.

Business Associations: Bill Morton

The Lyn-Lake Association and Uptown Association met today. Uptown Association has selected artists for the Art Fair and will establish a "kid's art fair" at Calhoun Square. Mpls Police is working to open the police sub-station at Lake & Lagoon for their officers to use to complete reports and take breaks. It will not be an actual police station for drop in service.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.