

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
19 AUGUST 2008

***DRAFT:** Subject to Approval at the September 2008 CARAG Meeting*

Board Members Attending: Brendan Jordan, Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham (President), Aaron Rubenstein, Scott Schiefelbein, Howard Verson, Anna Matthes, Ellen Meyer
Absent: Jamie Ronnei

Agenda:

Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Planned 31st Street Traffic Signal Lights: Donald Sobania, Public Works Traffic Safety Engineer, attended the meeting to talk about new overhead traffic signal lights planned for 31st Street at Bryant, Dupont, Emerson and Hennepin Avenues. Sobania noted:

- These lights will be installed during a first phase between Chicago Ave & I35W. They will be installed between I35W and Hennepin Avenue during a second phase.
- Federal funds will cover 90% of the cost of the lights with local money covering the remaining 10%.
- Public Works installs these lights for traffic safety purposes- with a potential "t-crash" reduction of 70%
- Overhead lights would be installed over 31st, while pole based signals would remain at Bryant, Dupont and Emerson.

CARAG neighbors made comments about the proposed lights including:

- Concerns about the "industrial" character of the lights in the residential area
- Concern that overhead lights increase speeds because they can be seen from greater distances
- Some interest in pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements for 31st Street including the addition of a landscaped median.

Sobania noted that Dupont and Emerson Avenues at 31st Street do not "warrant" traffic signal lights based on the City's formula for determining the placement of such lights. The City may consider an all-way stop sign intersection at these locations if there is interest from the neighborhood. Sobania said an all-way stop would also be a safe intersection, but there are downsides too:

- Not everyone stops at stop signs- causes some danger for pedestrians, motorists
- Everyone is required to stop- causes brake and engine noise
- More constant traffic instead of groups of cars- makes crossing at uncontrolled intersections more difficult.

Motion (Verson), Seconded that CARAG requests the City Public Works Department install all-way stop signs at 31st Street at Dupont and Emerson Avenues. CARAG also requests that Public Works install new overhead traffic signal lights at Bryant a few feet further from the curb to accommodate a future median. Approved.

Midtown Greenway Coalition Update, Brenden Jordan

Jordan is the newly selected CARAG representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition Board of Directors. He noted that the last MGC meeting focused on finance and safety issues. Jordan would like CARAG to clarify its' position about rail in the Midtown Greenway. A CARAG resolution from 2006 is somewhat unclear, but generally states that CARAG supports a streetcar, but supports Light Rail if a streetcar isn't implemented. The MGC opposes Light Rail in the Greenway.

Motion, seconded to send this issue to the Transportation Committee for discussion and have them draft a proposed resolution. Approved.

Transportation Committee Update, Howard Verson

Verson noted that the committee developed a list of potential bike and pedestrian improvement projects to be considered for a potential Federal Grant and/or future NRP projects. This list includes (in no particular order):

- Bryant Bridge over creek.
- Bryant bikeway safety improvements:
 - better crossings of east west streets
 - Signal improvements
 - Better ped crossings
- 31st St bikeway -ped bike street.
- sidewalk on south side of 36th St.

Minutes

Motion, Seconded to approve the June minutes with a change from "restricting" to "prohibiting". Approved.

CARAG Operations Treasurer's Report, Anna Matthes

Matthes presented the June and July reports. Checking has a balance of \$ and asset accounts are valued at \$ for a total of \$ as of July 31, 2008. First through third quarter budget tracking reports were available for review. Matthes also presented FY09 preliminary budgets for CARAG Operations and NRP administrative accounts.

Uptown Neighborhood News Treasurer's Report, Jill Bode

Bode presented the report for the UNN account. The balance in the UNN checking account is: \$

NRP: Scott Engel

Engel noted:

- The NRP Steering Committee is planning a Town Hall Visioning session for October 14 for the community to brainstorm ideas for the \$636,000 Phase II program.
- The City Council released an updated draft of the "NRP- Framework for the Future" document in late July and the Mayor proposed \$8 million per year to fund the program starting in 2011. The City Council will hold a Public Hearing on August 20 to hear comments about the Framework.

Zoning Committee, Aaron Rubenstein:

Rubenstein reported:

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Business Associations: Bill Morton

September 16 Annual Meeting & Potluck, Kay Graham

Announcements

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