

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

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

**Board Members Attending:** Anna Mathes (Treasurer; left about 7:15), Ellan Meyer (Vice President), Bill Morton, Kay Nygaard-Graham (President), Dan Qualy, Aaron Rubenstein (acting secretary), Scott Schiefelbein, Howard Verson.

Absent: Jamie Ronnei

### **Presentations**

**Crime and Safety:** Lt. Marie Przynski and Tom Thompson, MPD Fifth Precinct

A rash of burglaries through January has ended with the apprehension of three juveniles aged 16 and 17. The assignment of beat cops to Uptown has resulted in a 43 percent decrease in robberies in the past six months; the beat cops are expected to continue. The Bryant Avenue Market was the target recently of a burglary and an armed robbery. Don't leave vehicles running unattended on public streets, even if locked; it's illegal and ticketable. Minneapolis hasn't been hit yet, but most residential locks are vulnerable to key bumping or lock bumping (a \$3 key that opens most brands of locks; google for more info).

**Council Member Ralph Remington:**

The Uptown Small Area Plan was recently adopted by the City Council. A planning process for the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan will start soon and should take eight to twelve months to complete. The boundaries probably will be Aldrich, Franklin, 31<sup>st</sup> and Blaisdell (i.e., Lake Street from Aldrich to Blaisdell and Lyndale from Franklin to 31<sup>st</sup>). The City Council is preparing to embark on a street lighting plan. Petitions are out to create a new critical parking area south of Calhoun Square; parking would be restricted from 9 pm to 2 am Monday through Saturday. Amending the liquor ordinance off-sale spacing/distance requirement is on hold. Remington introduced city planner Amanda Arnold, who led the Uptown plan and will lead the Lyn-Lake plan as well. She said letters went out last Thursday asking the four neighborhood groups to each appoint two reps for the Lyn-Lake plan. The first steering committee meeting should be in about six weeks.

**Lake Street and Lyndale Avenue Reconstruction:**

Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman introduced the two road reconstruction projects. She said they had hoped the third phase of Lake Street reconstruction—from Dupont to Blaisdell plus Lyndale from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>—would be completed last season, but it was not and will be completed this year. Lyndale reconstruction from 31<sup>st</sup> to Minnehaha Parkway will finally start this year—after more than a decade of discussion.

Don Shaffer of Hennepin County said the Lake Street project will go more smoothly this year. The contractor will start work at the end of March, weather depending, and replacement of gas mains will start in the first part of April. Work last year was slowed by the organization of the utility work.

Nick Peterson, the Lyndale reconstruction project engineer with Hennepin County, said the project is divided into three phases and they are finalizing plans. In phase one, Lyndale from 38<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> streets will be closed to through-traffic for much of 2008. Utilities work will probably start in April and roadway construction will happen from June to November. In phase two, Lyndale from 31<sup>st</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> will be reconstructed in 2009—with two lanes open at all times. In phase three, Lyndale from 50<sup>th</sup> to the creek will be closed to through-traffic from April 2009 to November 2009; the Minnehaha Creek bridge will be replaced. There will be some minor utility work for phases two and three in 2008. The City Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed assessment for paving and lighting on March 25; there will be a public information meeting about the project and assessments prior to the hearing and notices will be mailed by March 11.

**Bryant Square Park Performance Space:** Alex Zachary and Jessica Berg, Mpls. Park & Recreation Board  
Alex is a parks planner and Jessica is the concert and event coordinator. The new outdoor performance space/amphitheater (designed and paid for by CARAG NRP in coordination with MPRB) will be programmed with a broad range of acoustic music Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the summer (7:00 to 8:30, from first week of June to third week of August). Jessica proposed a kick-off celebration to recognize CARAG's contributions to the park—ideally Thursday, May 29. Alex said he wants it to be a community facility. Everyone

was very happy and delighted that MPRB will be programming music twice weekly at BSP (performers donate their time).

**Lehman Center Bike Program:** Nathan Magel, Uptown Academy/Wellstone International High School Volunteer Coord.

Magel introduced the school programs (205 at-risk youth at Uptown Academy and 170 international students at Wellstone) and said he's looking for both volunteers—for all sorts of work with students-- and bicycles. The Wellstone School has a bike club in which they build bikes during the winter and then donate them to community members.

## **Business Meeting**

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved as amended (adding Carl Holmquist and a board vacancy).

**Minutes:** Minutes of the January 2008 meeting were approved (with only a spelling correction to Scott S.'s name).

**Treasurer's Report:** The CARAG Treasurer's report was approved. The UNN financial report was acknowledged.

**CARAG Office Space:** The CARAG board met at 6:00 prior to the neighborhood meeting to discuss CARAG office space options. The board voted 4-1 to recommend that the office move to the Southwest Senior Center, 3608 Bryant, at the end of March. A motion to negotiate a lease with the Southwest Senior Center passed with one nay vote.

**Lake District Council:** Carl Holmquist reported that the Lake District Council met January 24<sup>th</sup> and that preparation of a Lake Calhoun master plan will start this spring.

**Zoning Committee:** Aaron Rubenstein reported that CARAG held a special neighborhood meeting January 22 to finish discussion of Calhoun Square; the majority voted to not recommend approval or denial but to state a number of concerns about and suggestions for the project. The Zoning Committee met January 29 to discuss Indio (new restaurant planned for Pizza Nea space; committee voted to accept the proposed 1:00 a.m. closing but expressed concern about neighborhood noise impacts as patrons leave the restaurant); 1015 W. Lake (new, one-story, two-bay retail building planned to start construction this spring on Eastar Buffet site; developer met with committee and appreciated suggestions made; no variances or special zoning approvals expected; developer wants to meet with committee again to present revised plans); and Bryant Lake Bowl (city proposal to change food/liquor minimum ratio from 60/40 to 50/50 for BLB and one other bowling alley so that all bowling alleys have 50/50 requirement; committee members said they want to support BLB but there was not agreement on the issue; no position was taken as there was not a quorum and no board meeting prior to city action). Aaron said he received revised plans for Calhoun Square this afternoon—revisions based on input from CARAG and city staff. The most significant change is a larger public seating/gathering area at the south end of the first floor with a stage and flexible seating.

**NRP:** Scott Engel

A proposal to provide up to \$6,500 of CARAG NRP funds for the purchase and installation of new benches around the Bryant Square Park wading pool was approved unanimously. The future of NRP issue was referred back to the NRP Steering Committee due to lack of time and will be on the March neighborhood meeting agenda as well.

**Business Associations:** Bill Morton

The Lyn-Lake Association did not meet today. Thatcher Imboden is the new Uptown Association president.

**Dan Qualy:** Dan resigned from the board as he is moving out of the neighborhood. Kay thanked him for his service to the neighborhood and announced that there is an open seat on the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.