

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
17 JUNE 2008

DRAFT: Subject to Approval at the August 2008 CARAG Meeting

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

Agenda:

Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of a Midtown Greenway update. Approved Unanimously.

Crime and Safety: Lt. Jack Kelly and Tom Thompson, MPD Fifth Precinct
Kelly and Thompson were unable to attend because they were at a Kingfield neighborhood meeting dealing with the recent double homicide.

Bryant Square Park Update: Julie Sandin

Sandin was unable to attend, but had two announcements:

- Concerts are held 7pm every Tuesday & Thursday this summer at the performance space
- The BSP Ice Cream Social is Wednesday, July 9, 6-8pm

Council Member's Update, Ralph Remington

Remington announced several updates and took questions.

- Residents were encouraged to use crime prevention techniques to prevent graffiti, burglaries and robberies.
- The Republican National Convention (RNC) is in town around Labor Day, and the City is expected to approve 4am bar closing hours for downtown bars and hotel bars. Bar owners will pay \$2,500 for this temporary license.
- No heat/ low heat: Remington worked to get the ordinance changed ensuring that landlords provide heat between September 15-May 15 to their tenants.
- Petitioning continues by residents for permit parking on several blocks near Uptown. If 75% of property owners sign a petition supporting it, a parking district will be established restricting parking for non-residents from 9pm-2am, Monday-Saturday.
- Buses are expected to move from 31st Street back to Lake Street beginning June 20.
- The Uptown Association and Lyndale neighborhoods both received graffiti prevention mini-grants to discourage graffiti in their areas.

Pizza Luce Block Party: Sarah Stanton

Stanton is planning their annual block party for Saturday, August 9th. It will feature bands, kid's activities, and food. Pizza Luce staff will do a clean up of the area before, during and after the event.

Motion, Seconded to support the Pizza Luce Block Party event. Approved unanimously.

Uptown Association (UA), Maude Lovelle

Lovelle gave updates about two of their big projects:

- Uptown Art Fair: The event will be held August 1, 2 & 3 featuring over 350 artists.
- Graffiti Grant: UA is partnering with area community and arts groups to implement a graffiti prevention project in the area. The City awarded UA \$10,000 to fund the multi-faceted effort including educational workshops, the creation of graffiti as art and graffiti removal.

Capital Long Range Improvements Committee (CLIC)

Minneapolis Public Works is planning to add new traffic signal lights along 31st Street at Bryant, Dupont, Emerson and Hennepin in 2010. The CLIC is looking for input on this project. Some residents believe that the proposed lights will change the character of 31st from a residential street to a more commercial street because the lights will hang over the intersections. This may lead to more traffic and higher speeds.

Motion, seconded “to have Ronnei and Verson draft a resolution opposing the traffic signals. CARAG will distribute a flyer to homes within one block of 31st Street letting them know CARAG will discuss this at the next meeting.”

Discussion included alternative options to the resolution and flyer delivery. There was a suggestion to have a Public Works representative attend a CARAG meeting to explain the rationale for the lights.

Motion approved.

Minutes

Motion, Seconded to approve the minutes with a few changes to the Zoning report. Approved.

CARAG Operations Treasurer's Report, Anna Matthes

Matthes presented the report. Checking has a balance of \$12,643.66 and asset accounts are valued at \$7,187.20 for a total of \$19,830.86 as of May 31, 2008.

Uptown Neighborhood News Treasurer's Report

No report.

Zoning Committee, Aaron Rubenstein:

Rubenstein reported:

- The Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan Open House is Tuesday, June 24 at Redeemer Residence. A survey regarding Lyn-Lake issues is on-line at the City's website.
- Construction of the Calhoun Square ramp is expected to begin in July.

NRP: Scott Engel

Engel noted:

- Upcoming community events including the Garden Tour
- Please join the new CARAG E-Update to receive emails about CARAG events and activities.
- The City Council Committee of the Whole will discuss the latest proposal for support of neighborhood organizations and community engagement on Thursday, June 19. A final proposal is expected in late July. The Legislature approved a bill allowing Minneapolis to extend tax districts to fund debt payoff on the Target Center and neighborhood revitalization programs. No decisions have been made on how much money goes to either item.

Business Associations: Bill Morton

Uptown Association met today and the following was reported:

- The police sub-station is now open in Uptown.
- Gail Dorfman said officials will determine the alignment for the Southwest LRT line by the end of 2009. The line through Uptown would take a route down Nicollet to downtown Minneapolis.
- Dorfman also noted that Hennepin County set aside \$50 million to replace Walker Library. Community input will be sought regarding design and the eventual location.

Lyn-Lake Association met as well and they received a report from representatives of the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association regarding their new website: www.discoversouthwest.com . The site will promote the idea of shopping locally by promoting area businesses.

Midtown Greenway Coalition: Howard Verson

Verson noted that his term on the MGC Board is up and CARAG needs to select a representative to fill out the next term. Jordan nominated himself for the position. Motion, Seconded to select Brendan Jordan as CARAG's representative to the MGC Board. Approved.

July Meeting

The group discussed whether to hold a CARAG Neighborhood Meeting in July. Normally, attendance is very low, the park building is very warm and there is nothing urgent to discuss. Motion, Seconded to cancel the July CARAG Neighborhood Meeting. Approved.

Announcements

- Jordan announced that he has made some connections regarding the creation of an Uptown Farmer's Market.