

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
20 MAY 2008

DRAFT: Subject to Approval at the June 2008 CARAG Meeting

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

Crime and Safety: Lt. Jack Kelly and Tom Thompson, MPD Fifth Precinct
Generally, crime in the precinct is down dramatically year-to-date compared to last year. However, theft from motor vehicles is up- especially in the Lyn Lake business area. Lock car doors and hide valuables in the trunk. Robberies have been increasing lately, as well. The Uptown police sub-station will open again soon.

New Joyce Church Pastor: Bill Morton/John Darlington

Pastor Morton will be retiring after 8 years at Joyce Church. Pastor Darlington will take over July 1 at both Joyce Church and Simpson Church. A retirement party for Morton is scheduled for June 7 at Joyce Church.

Lyndale United Church of Christ, Alan Henden

Lyndale UCC is sharing their space at 31st & Aldrich with Salem English Lutheran Church. They expect to hire a real estate agent who is focused on finding a buyer who will reuse the existing church building. Both churches will move once the building is sold. They are working with Brighton Development to rehab the existing Salem Church sanctuary. Affordable housing and commercial space would be constructed at the corner of 28th & Lyndale.

Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting, Cindy Christain

The wine tasting is Wednesday, June 11, 5-9pm @ Campiello Uptown. Tickets are available from CARAG for \$25 and \$30 at the door. Tickets sold by CARAG go directly to the organization as a major fundraiser. Contact CARAG for tickets.

Rain Water Retention, Steve Green

Green discussed the system to retain rain water in his yard on Hennepin. The gutters direct rain water into a storage tank which can be used to water plants. Green is willing to talk with anyone about treating water on site and can be reached at: 823-6306.

Lake Calhoun Update, Carl Holmquist

- A Lake Calhoun Master Plan was supposed to begin, but there is no funding to complete it.
- A new design for the Lake Calhoun Sailing Village was presented to the West Calhoun neighborhood recently. The proposed site is now on the northwest corner of the lake near the Lake Calhoun Executive Center.

Minutes, Kay Graham

Graham noted that a written change was made to the March minutes. "Bonnet" should read "Bennett". Motion, Seconded: to approve the minutes of the April 15 CARAG Neighborhood Meeting with changes. Approved unanimously.

CARAG Operations Treasurer's Report, Anna Matthes

Matthes presented the report. Checking has a balance of \$12,882.65 and asset accounts are valued at \$7,187.20 for a total of \$20,069.85.

Uptown Neighborhood News Treasurer's Report

No report.

CARAG Email List, Scott Schiefelbein:

Schiefelbein presented the concept of starting a new email list for CARAG using e-list service Constant Contact. It 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 \$130 per year with a 1-year prepay membership. Motion, Seconded: to purchase a 1-year prepay membership to Constant Contact. Approved unanimously.

Zoning Committee, Aaron Rubenstein:

Rubenstein reported:

- The first Lyn Lake Small Area Plan community meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 24.
- 1015 W. Lake (the Verizon Wireless store) was approved by the Planning Commission and is now under construction.
- The Planning Commission approved the MoZaic development at Girard and Lagoon. Some residents expressed disappointment about the project design, which includes a 6-story above ground parking ramp.
- Lehman Center: Public Schools plans to sell the building and the City would market and sell it. There is potential that the structure could be torn down. Rubenstein noted the history of the former manufacturing building. The structure is not eligible for historic designation because it has been modified significantly- especially the interior. Motion, Seconded to state that CARAG supports the reuse of the existing Lehman Center building. Approved 7-1.

NRP: Scott Engel

Engel noted upcoming CARAG Events:

- Bryant Square Park Performance Space Dedication: May 29, 6:30pm @ BSP
- Calhoun Square Beer Fest: May 31, 5-9pm @ Lake & Hennepin. Kay Graham, Ellen Meyer and Tom Parsons volunteered to sell popcorn at this event with the proceeds going to CARAG.

Sod was installed around the Bryant Square Park performance space and benches installed at the wading pool. CARAG provided NRP funds for both projects.

Business Associations: Bill Morton

The Lyn-Lake Association and Uptown Association met today. Uptown hired 5 interns and an associate director to assist with organizing the Art Fair. Lyn Lake discussed the small area plan.

Announcements

- Urban Earth Co-op is sponsoring 4 free garden workshops in June.
- Graham will sign the new office lease on May 21st.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.