

CARAG  
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group  
**Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**  
**21 OCTOBER 2008**

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

**Board Members Attending:** John Darlington, Jeff Forester, Brendan Jordan, Anna Matthes, Maren Nowicki, Aaron Rubenstein (President), Pamela Taylor, Scott Schiefelbein and Howard Verson

**Agenda:**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with the introduction of CARAG Board Members and CARAG Community Coordinator Scott Engel. Motion, Seconded to amend the meeting agenda to defer the selection of representatives to the UNN Managing Board until November's meeting. Approved.

**Bryant Square Park Update: Julie Sandin**

Sandin reported:

- Soccer Tournament Week at Fort Snelling closes out the soccer season. Wrestling will begin in December and run through the winter.
- The Neighborhood Halloween Party will be held from 6-8 p.m. on October 31 at BSP. Party activities will be held outside, weather permitting.
- The summer concert season was well-received and is planned again for next summer.
- The skating rink will be open seven days per week and will be maintained through President's Day.

**Blaisdell YMCA capital campaign: John Meegan**

Meegan spoke about the extensive children's programming supported by the YMCA at six Minneapolis public schools; the Blaisdell branch supports Sullivan School. The branch has embarked on a capital campaign to raise \$6 million for expansion of its facilities. To promote awareness of the Blaisdell Y and its missions, the facility is offering a membership special whereby the purchase of a 6-month membership includes an additional month's membership at no charge.

**Minutes**

Motion, Seconded to approve September's CARAG meeting minutes. Approved.

Motion, Seconded to approve minutes of the September 24 Special BOD Meeting with deletion of references to attachments, include clarification that every matter is put to a neighborhood vote and to add the statement, "Where required, the Board vote is recorded separately." The motion to approve was passed; one nay vote was cast. Pamela Taylor requested to be on record as having voted not to approve the Special BOD Meeting minutes.

**Treasurer's Report: Anna Matthes**

The September CARAG Operations report shows that the checking account has a balance of \$14,273.86 and asset accounts are valued at \$7,187.20 for a total of \$21,461.06 as of September 30, 2008. Matthes also presented the Fy08 Spending Summary, which shows that total expenses exceeded income in the budget because revenue from sales, such as those generated at the Uptown Art Fair and the Beer Fest, were lower than expected. CARAG's move to a new office location incurred some unexpected expenses, however rental and phone costs are lower than at the previous location. Asset accounts include three certificates of deposit, which are held to meet emergency expenses.

Motion, Seconded to approve CARAG FY2009 Accounting and Procedures and Practices. Approved.

Motions, Seconded to approve Aaron Rubenstein, Pamela Taylor and Anna Matthes to sign checks and to maintain the account at Bremer Bank. Both motions approved.

Motion, Seconded to approve the CARAG Conflict of Interest Policy. Approved. A copy of this document must be signed annually by each Board member and filed at the CARAG office.

**Uptown Neighborhood News Treasurer's Report: Jill Bode**

Bode presented the Profit and Loss statement for Fy08, which shows a net profit of \$290.90. The current balance sheet shows \$5,424.21 in the UNN checking account. Copies of the preliminary UNN budget for Fy09 were provided for review. CARAG must approve UNN Accounting Procedures annually. Motion, Seconded to approve the UNN Accounting Procedures. Motion approved with one abstention. CARAG is seeking nominations to serve on the UNN Management Board. Nomination of Anna Matthes was seconded and accepted. Two people will be elected at the November meeting.

### **Zoning Committee: Aaron Rubenstein**

Rubenstein reported:

- The Zoning Committee will meet prior to the CARAG November meeting to take a position on the City's proposal regarding off-street parking standards, which would significantly reduce off-street parking requirements in commercial areas. A draft document will go out to the Board for finalization prior to submission.
- The City is proposing to change the sign code and has scheduled a meeting for October 30 at 4:30 p.m.
- The City is proposing a 45-day "notice" for neighborhood review when it wants to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties or demolish and rehabilitate abandoned properties. This would replace the 45-day "review" period that exists at present. Implications of this change in terminology were considered. Motion, Seconded to ask the Zoning Committee to take up the issue. Approved.

Pamela Taylor moved that all Committee reports be submitted in written format for inclusion in monthly Board Meeting packets. It was agreed that the Board would consider all amendments to Committee practices at the Board retreat in December and come back with recommendations for discussion at a future CARAG meeting. No vote was taken.

### **NRP Update: Scott Engel**

Engel reported:

- On September 26 the City Council approved the creation of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission.
- The NRP Steering Committee held a Visioning Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, October 14. CARAG is conducting a survey to gather information about issues important to the neighborhood to determine how to spend its NRP funds. The next NRP Steering Committee meeting is October 28 at 7 p.m. at BSP.
- CARAG needs to select an elector and an alternate to send to the NRP Policy Board elections. The nomination of Pamela Taylor was seconded and accepted by acclamation with Aaron Rubenstein serving as alternate.

### **Transportation Committee: Brendan Jordan**

Jordan distributed a draft memorandum that outlines CARAG's issues of concern regarding the Southwest Transitway Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and its potential impacts on the Uptown area. Public comments on the proposed DEIS will be taken until November 7. It was suggested that CARAG's previous statement in support of rail in the Greenway corridor be included in the memorandum. CARAG will not take a position on a specific alignment at this time. Jordan was asked to bring the issue of traffic signals at the 3100 block of Dupont and Emerson Avenues to the Committee and report back at the CARAG meeting in November.

### **Uptown Association Update: John Darlington**

The Uptown Business Association met on October 21. The group reviewed the 2008 Uptown Art Fair, endorsed a Southwest Rail Alignment that routes the LRT corridor through Uptown and accepted a proposal to hold the Great River Bike Race in June 2009; route to be determined. With the goal of improving relationships with the residential community, the Association is seeking participation from neighbors and non-Board members, particularly in CARAG, in visioning its role. The Association wants to promote a healthy business presence in Uptown and function as a voice for the neighborhood.

**Committee Policy: Aaron Rubenstein**

Board adoption of the Committee policy was tabled until the Board retreat in December. John Darlington, Maren Nowicki and Pamela Taylor have expressed interest in serving on the Personnel Committee. Rick Boyko, having served previously on this committee, will be approached to serve again. It was decided to wait until the Board retreat to discuss the Personnel Committee and its membership.

Motion, Seconded that the December 16 CARAG meeting be canceled in favor of holding a half-day Board retreat on the proposed date of Saturday, December 13. Motion approved with one abstention. Taylor suggested that Board training precede the Board retreat. No decision was made.

**Community Input and Announcements: Aaron Rubenstein**

Secretary Maren Nowicki stated that due to the tight deadline for submission of CARAG meeting minutes for publication in the Uptown Neighborhood News, review by the CARAG Board prior to publication may not always be feasible.

**Adjourn**

Motion, Seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Approved.