

CARAG  
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group  
**Annual Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**  
**16 SEPTEMBER 2008**

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

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

**Presentations: MN State Senator Scott Dibble and MN State House Rep Frank Hornstein**

- Dibble & Hornstein reviewed the 2008 Legislative session with brief updates about education, property tax reform and transportation funding. They expect budget challenges for the 2009 session and will focus on making the income tax system fairer.

**Presentation: Brian Elliot- Aide to Congressmen Keith Ellison**

- Elliot works at Congressman Ellison's local office and updated the group about priorities for the year.

**Presentation: Council Member Ralph Remington**

- Remington noted that the Lyn Lake Small Area Plan process is going well, and an open house was just held on September 15.
- He advised not promoting the removal of traffic signal lights at 31<sup>st</sup> Street at Dupont and Emerson. The CARAG organization passed a resolution at the August 19 CARAG meeting supporting the removal of the lights if they were replaced by "all-way" stop signs. Remington said he has new info that the intersections would only have stop signs on Dupont and Emerson- not 31<sup>st</sup> Street. CARAG will address this issue at a future meeting.

**Presentations: Steve Kotvis, Strong Schools- Strong City Campaign**

- Kotvis presented reasons to support the upcoming \$66 million Minneapolis Public Schools levy referendum. He noted that the average cost to Minneapolis property owners would be \$17 per month for an average Minneapolis home.

Motion, seconded "that CARAG endorses the Strong Schools Strong City referendum campaign for our Minneapolis Public Schools". Approved.

**Board Nominations:**

- John Darlington and Maren Nowicki were nominated in August. Jeff Forrester, Kay Graham, Brendan Jordan, Anna Matthes, Ellan Meyer, Jamie Ronnei, Aaron Rubenstein, Scott Schiefelbein, Pam Taylor and Howard Verson requested to have their names listed on the ballot and were nominated at the meeting. Bill Morton was also nominated during the meeting.
- Each candidate introduced themselves and said why they want to participate on the CARAG Board.
- CARAG members voted for up to nine board members on paper ballots.

**Committee Updates:**

- Crime & Safety: Todd Monson discussed committee activities including their monthly meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:30pm @ Urban Bean) and the CARAG Stroll Patrol walking patrol.
- Livability: Diana Boegemann reported on the multiple CARAG events and activities led by the Livability Committee. The group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ the CARAG office.
- Midtown Greenway Coalition: Brendan Jordan is the new CARAG representative on the MGC.
- NRP Steering: Kay Graham noted that the committee is meeting to gather input for the Phase II NRP Action Plan and needs more help.

Motion, Seconded to approve the following resolution: "CARAG asks that the City modify its (the NRP Work Group's) current proposal for funding and governance of NRP to more closely accommodate the issues

identified in the Residents Response and Alternative to the Framework for the Future". Approved. 2 Abstentions.

- **Transportation:** Howard Verson noted that the committee has begun meeting again after a long break. The group has been discussing ideas for improving the bike and pedestrian experience in CARAG. The Committee will also meet to clarify CARAG's position regarding transit in the Midtown Greenway corridor.
- **Zoning;** Aaron Rubenstein said the Zoning Committee meets as needed to address zoning, planning, and development issues. The committee's major efforts in the past year were review of Calhoun Square redevelopment and the Uptown Small Area Plan.

#### **Consent Agenda:**

Motion, Seconded to approve the consent agenda (agenda and 8-19-08 meeting minutes) as submitted. Approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

- Anna Matthes presented the August CARAG Operations report. Checking has a balance of \$14,768.79 and asset accounts are valued at \$7,187.20 for a total of \$21,955.99 as of August 31, 2008. Matthes also presented the Fy09 CARAG Operations budget for the CARAG Operations account. Motion, Seconded to approve the Fy09 CARAG Operations budget. Approved.
- Scott Engel presented the Fy09 CARAG NRP Administrative Contract budget. This account pays for staff, advertising, and other CARAG administrative costs. Motion, Seconded. Approved.
- Jill Bode reported that the Uptown Neighborhood News has \$3,340.49 in the UNN checking account as of August 31, 2008. The UNN Managing Board will bring their Fy09 budget to the CARAG meeting next month for approval.

#### **Board Election Results**

Mark Hillyer reported that

- The following seven were clearly elected: John Darlington, Jeff Forrester, Brendan Jordan, Maren Nowicki, Aaron Rubenstein, Pam Taylor, and Howard Verson.
- There was a 3-way tie for the final two board positions amongst Anna Matthes, Bill Morton and Scott Schiefelbein. Morton decided to withdraw, leaving Matthes and Schiefelbein as Board members.

#### **Adjourn**