

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
21 APRIL 2009
Approved at the May 2009 CARAG Meeting

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

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with introduction of CARAG Board members. Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda after adding a proposal to discuss scheduling a Special Board Meeting. Agenda approved.

Crime & Safety Report: Tom Thompson and Lt. John Kelly

Thompson stressed the importance of keeping both home entry and garage service doors locked, keeping an eye on the neighborhood and dialing 911 to report suspicious activity. Lt. Kelly reminded neighbors that installation of motion lights and lights on timers are keys to safety. Thompson strongly recommended installation of deadbolt locks with a drill of 1 inch or more and offered to meet one-on-one with those interested in a safety assessment of their homes.

Oversight of crime and safety issues now falls under the purview of the Community Engagement Committee. Executive Coordinator Scott Engel stated that there are still grants available in the amount of \$500 each in funds remaining in NRP Strategy 04 - Crime and Safety for Front Porch and Low Level Lighting.

Community Input and Announcements

- Brad Bourn announced that he's running for the office of Park Board Commissioner for District 6.
- CARAG continues to monitor Lyndale Avenue reconstruction in preparation to respond as an organization, if necessary. Scott Engel recently distributed leaflets about the reconstruction project to CARAG households along Lyndale Avenue.
- Uptown Market: Jordan stated that plans for the Uptown Market and Art Fair are moving along. Roxie Speth reported that, while not yet feasible as a weekly event, vendors have been recruited for 4 Market sessions planned for this summer. The Uptown Market seeks CARAG's approval to act as fiscal agent. CARAG could act as a "pass through" organization, whereby the neighborhood receives a percentage of the proceeds, with the remainder going to Uptown Market. Board members expressed concerns about liability, financial matters and the need for CARAG representation on the Uptown Market Board. Rubenstein suggested that a Special Meeting of the Board might be in order. Motion, Seconded for CARAG to support the concept of the Uptown Market and to commit to working through the details for CARAG to become the fiscal agent for the Market. Motion approved unanimously. A final decision will be sought at the May 19th CARAG meeting. The next meeting of the Uptown Market Board is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Engel

Engel reported:

- The CARAG Operations Account Financial Report as of March 31 showed a checking account balance of \$9,257.60 with asset accounts in the form of 4 CDs valued at \$10,886.42; overall total is \$20,126.11.
- A new lease agreement has been entered into between CARAG and Volunteers of America of Minnesota. Motion, Seconded to approve the lease agreement. Motion approved.
- Uptown Beer Fest (Lake Street and Hennepin Avenue): Due to Calhoun Square construction, the event has been moved Downtown. CARAG will not be permitted to sell popcorn at the event.
- Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting on June 10 will be sponsored by Stella's Fish Café and Cowboy Slim's restaurant. Pam Price is organizing volunteers and ticket sales for the event.
- CARAG's multi-year spreadsheet shows that spending has been scaled back with regard to expenses related to staffing and office space.

- Options for CARAG fund-raising: Funding levels under the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will not match those enjoyed under NRP. CARAG needs to employ additional resources toward meeting expenses. Engel and Matthes will review possible fund-raising strategies.

Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN) Treasurer's Report: Jill Bode

Bode reported that the UNN Balance Sheet shows assets of \$4,259.08 and liabilities of \$655.60, with equity totaling \$3,603.78 as of April 21, 2009. Equity balance continues to drop, primarily due to decreasing ad revenues.

Zoning Committee: Aaron Rubenstein

- The CARAG Zoning Committee met on April 15 to review a proposal by Amigo Service Center to replace three overhead garage doors using matching funds from the façade improvement program of the City's Great Streets program. No decision taken.
- The Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan was laid over for 4 weeks by the City Planning Commission for discussion of input gathered, leading up to adoption of the plan by the Planning Commission and the City Council.
- Height of proposed building at the northeast corner of Knox Avenue and Lake Street: No update.

NRP Update: Scott Engel

- Mark Hillyer reported on the NCEC Meeting held April 18. Discussion concerned the seating of 8 neighborhood representatives representing 8 population-based districts and determination of district boundaries. Option #1, a map depicting proposed district boundaries, was distributed for review. The NCEC applications process begins May 12. Motion, Seconded that CARAG recommend that the NCEC Selection Process move forward with the plan to seat 8 representatives representing 8 districts, with delineation of district boundaries drawn as shown on the Option #1 map. Motion approved.
- Reminders: CARAG Plant Swap will take place on May 9 and the CARAG Super Sale on May 16
- NRP Steering Committee neighborhood survey: No update.

Community Engagement Committee: Scott Schiefelbein

Schiefelbein was elected Chair of the Committee. Future strategies were discussed to increase neighborhood participation, communication and recruitment. Particular emphasis was placed on engaging households located at some distance from Bryant Square Park, where many CARAG activities take place. With the dissolution of the Crime & Safety Committee, the Community Engagement Committee plans to work with Tom Thompson on safety issues.

Midtown Greenway Coalition: Aaron Rubenstein

Two candidates, Michel Barringer-Mills and Josh Tollkan, each of whom seeks to represent CARAG at the Midtown Greenway Coalition, spoke briefly. Motion to nominate Tollkan, Seconded. Motion carried with 4 abstentions. CARAG requests that its representative to the Coalition report back to the neighborhood on a regular basis.

Uptown Association: John Darlington

- Darlington asked for CARAG's support in Uptown Association's efforts to combat graffiti. Motion, Seconded for CARAG to write a letter in support of the UA's application for an anti-graffiti grant. Motion Approved. 'Uptown Wipe Out 2009' on Saturday, May 2, is an opportunity for neighbors to unite to clean up graffiti and trash in the neighborhood. Various shifts are available. To sign up call 612-823-4581 or email sarah@uptownminneapolis.com.
- UA will conduct a public forum on April 30 to address needs and concerns of the neighborhood.

Executive Coordinator's Report: Scott Engel

Engel briefly recounted his activities for the preceding month: organizing meetings of the Personnel Committee, Livability Committee and Community Engagement Committee; working on CARAG's E-Update newsletter and website; placing CARAG's ad in the Uptown Neighborhood News; working on upcoming events, such as the BSP Concert Series; and leaflet distribution along Lyndale Avenue about reconstruction.

Adjourn Motion, Seconded to adjourn at 8:52 p.m. Approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Maren Nowicki