

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
18 August 2009

DRAFT: Subject to approval at the November 2009 CARAG Meeting

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

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda. Agenda approved.

Community Input and Announcements: Aaron Rubenstein

John Erwin, running for election to the Minneapolis Park Board, introduced himself, distributed literature and spoke briefly about his platform. Erwin previously served on the Park Board from 2002-2005. He may be contacted at 612-285-6863 or at erwinforparks09@yahoo.com.

Minutes

Motion, Seconded to approve CARAG meeting minutes for June. Motion approved. Motion, Seconded to approve minutes from the Special Board meeting in July. Motion approved with a correction stating that the Board will present ideas gleaned from the (NRP Phase II Planning) survey to the neighborhood at CARAG's September meeting, rather than at the August meeting.

CARAG Operations Account Report: Anna Matthes

Matthes noted that the Operations Report showed a balance of \$11,296.76 in bank accounts and \$10,920.31 in asset accounts as of July 31. CARAG's share of the proceeds from tickets sold at the door for this year's Hennepin Lake Community Wine Tasting totaled \$1,568.75. The CARAG Operations Spending Budget for October 1 through June 30 of FY 2009 shows that 59% of budgeted funds have been spent. In the Donations category it was noted that \$545.25 in proceeds from the Chilly Chili Fest went to Joyce Food Shelf and \$300 in the donations budget of 2009 remains unspent. A decision on whether to spend this money can be made at a later time.

Preliminary CARAG FY10 Operations and NRP Budgets Report: Anna Matthes

Matthes reported that CARAG Operations-proposed spending for FY 2010 is budgeted at \$6,255.00 with the same line items as that for FY 2009, which was budgeted at \$6,827.00. Contrary to previous years, the preliminary budget used some of the proceeds from Chilly Chili Fest to partially offset food costs for Chilly Chili Fest. [remainder of this paragraph has been moved from the previous paragraph] Regarding funds in the donation category, it was suggested that a process be developed to solicit requests from organizations seeking donations from CARAG. The question was raised as to whether donations should be made a priority in light of reduced NRP funding in future. A straw poll was taken to decide if this should remain a line item in the budget or to discontinue this funding and look at other options for charitable giving. Those present favored maintaining the annual donation of proceeds from the Chilly Chili Fest to Joyce Food Shelf and leaving \$300 as a line item in the budget as a placeholder; depending on whether funds remain in the budget at the end of the fiscal year, a final decision and recipients will to be determined at that time.

Scott Engel presented the proposed spending budget for NRP Administration, noting that costs for both Postage and Copies/Printing will go up and that the amount budgeted for Personnel costs may change pending the Board's approval of an increase in pay and/or benefits for the Executive Coordinator's position.

CARAG Multi-Year Financial Plan Report: Scott Engel

Engel reported that development of the Multi-year Financial Plan is still in progress; the draft will be sent to the Board for review next week. The Plan will be presented and voted on at September's Annual Neighborhood Meeting. Engel continues to explore the possibility of changing CARAG's status as a 501(c)(4)

organization to 501(c)(3) status. As a 501(c)(4) organization, CARAG faces difficulty obtaining funds from outside organizations as donors cannot take a tax deduction. Motion, Seconded to invite Eve Bornstein, an expert on 501(c)(3) non-profits, to meet with a small group of Board members. Motion approved. This group will report back at a future CARAG meeting.

Uptown Market Report: Brendan Jordan

Jordan discussed the Uptown Market's year-to-date profit and loss report. Three events have been held this summer and the Market is already set to exceed its target profit of \$9000, with one more event scheduled on September 20. It was suggested that a joint meeting of the CARAG Board and the Uptown Market Board be scheduled to discuss next year's budget and key features of the Market.

Uptown Neighborhood News Financial Report: Anna Matthes

Matthes reported that the UNN Balance Sheet shows assets of \$4,830.19 and liabilities (accounts payable) at \$957.74, with equity totaling \$3,872.45 as of July. Net loss from the July issue of UNN totaled \$35.65; the August issue showed a net profit of \$458.90; and a net loss of \$36.56 is projected for the September issue. Previous years' revenues continue to help cover operating losses.

Ted Ringsrud, scheduled to speak about the UNN Viability Plan, was not present. However, Matthes reported that Jill Bode had compared the levels of CARAG and ECCO monetary support for UNN since August 2005 and determined that ECCO had contributed \$1400 more than CARAG during this period. Before CARAG should have a discussion on whether to increase spending on UNN ads to similar levels of ECCO, there should be a formal acknowledgement from ECCO as to their ongoing commitment.

Uptown Association (UA) Update: John Darlington

Darlington noted that the Uptown Art Fair is the second-largest event in the state, just behind the Minnesota State Fair. As a liaison between UA and CARAG, Darlington continues to seek neighborhood input. There was nothing new to report on development of the new UA logo, however, Darlington will have an update next month.

Planning for CARAG Annual Meeting: Aaron Rubenstein

Nominations for CARAG's Board of Directors will be taken at the Annual Neighborhood Meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 20. Nominations were also taken at tonight's meeting. It was announced that Pamela Taylor has resigned from the Board, effective with her move out of the neighborhood in July. Rubenstein put the following Board members' names forward for reelection: John Darlington, Jeff Forester, Brendan Jordan, Anna Matthes, Aaron Rubenstein and Howard Verson. Zack Farley and Julie Cohen were also nominated.

Planning discussion concerned the order and starting times of the Potluck and the Annual Meeting. While monthly CARAG meetings start at 7:00 p.m., an earlier start time of 6:30 p.m. has been proposed for the Annual Meeting. A draft agenda for the meeting lists Board elections and the Treasurer's Report first, followed by the potluck. Rubenstein suggested that a year-end review of the Board's progress in achieving goals set for the past year and an acknowledgement of Board members' service be included on the agenda. It was also suggested that candidates for City Council and Park Board District 6 be invited to introduce themselves, with very brief time limits imposed, and encouraged to leave their campaign literature. Jordan suggested that there be an open time for neighbors to state what kind of changes they'd like to see in the neighborhood; this could potentially yield project ideas for development of CARAG's NRP Phase II Action Plan. Discussion also concerned holding all or part of the meeting and/or the potluck outside.

Adjourn: Motion, Seconded to adjourn the general meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion Approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Maren Nowicki, modified by Anna Matthes