

CARAG  
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group  
**Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes**  
**17 FEBRUARY 2009**

*Approved at the March 2009 CARAG Meeting*

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

**Agenda:**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. After introduction of CARAG Board members, Rubenstein announced that Pamela Taylor has rescinded her resignation from the CARAG Board. Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda after adding three items. Approved.

**Springfest Fundraiser: Gary Farland and Becky Bellefeuille**

Farland distributed a flyer announcing a fundraiser for the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf to be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, March 29, from 4 to 7 p.m. Bellefeuille announced that those interested in selling and/or purchasing tickets can obtain them after the meeting or contact her at the Joyce Food Shelf.

**Councilmember Remington's Report: Kim Malrick**

The final meeting for the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan will be held Thursday, February 19, from 7-8:30 p.m. Stoplight tests at the intersections of Dupont and Emerson Avenues with 31st Street are underway. At issue is whether these lights are warranted with regard to traffic, accidents and visibility, or if 3-way stop signs can be installed at these intersections instead. Comments received thus far indicate that opinion is evenly-divided. All public input must be received in writing by February 25. Jordan stated that the CARAG Transportation and Energy Committee supports removal of the lights in favor of stop signs, with the caveat that pedestrian safety be taken into consideration since walk signals will no longer exist. Motion, Seconded for CARAG to issue a statement that recommends removal of lights at these intersections. Motion carried.

Malrick was asked about permit-only parking for some area streets; organizers have had difficulty collecting residents' signatures, she said. An update on the Southwest LRT noted that CM Remington favors an Uptown alignment that would follow the Midtown Greenway, then proceed north to downtown via Nicollet or 1st Avenue, using 11th and 12th Streets to continue service to the intermodal station at the new Twins ballpark.

**Minutes**

Motion, Seconded to approve January's CARAG meeting minutes with two minor amendments. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report: Anna Matthes**

The CARAG Operations Account Financial Report as of January 31 showed a checking account balance of \$13,138.16 and asset accounts valued at \$7,852.20. Matthes discussed the CARAG Multi-year Financial Plan document, prepared by Matthes and Scott Engel, which will continue to evolve through September. Rubenstein introduced a tax-related document that the CARAG Board is required to approve by resolution and file by March 1. Motion, Seconded for the Board to approve the Charitable Organization Annual Report with forms 990 and 990T attached, to be signed by Rubenstein and Matthes. Motion carried. These forms can be viewed on the websites of the State Attorney General and the IRS.

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

Bode stated that the UNN Balance Sheet shows assets and liabilities totaling \$5,012.86 as of February 17, 2009. The Budget FY 2009 for UNN shows that UNN is over-budget, primarily due to decreasing ad revenues.

**Zoning Committee: Aaron Rubenstein**

The CARAG Zoning Committee met on January 29. A letter to the City, the tenant, and the property owner has been drafted regarding parking issues at Cowboy Slim's restaurant. Neighborhood concerns about the

lighting installed in the Calhoun Square parking ramp were discussed. An interim measure involves installation of shielding devices on the east side of the ramp. Retro-fitting upper-level fixtures with directional shields to focus light downward is also planned. Also discussed was the proposed construction of a six-story apartment building at Knox Avenue and Lake Street. Its proposed height has been reduced, however it would still exceed the height of 35 feet permitted within the Shoreland Overlay District (SOD), as well as policies established by the Small Area Plan.

Verson expressed concern about some aspects of the draft of the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan (LLSAP) that could result in land use and zoning changes and urged people to pay attention to the draft. After the final LLSAP community meeting on February 19, it will enter a 45-day public comment period.

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

Engel reported:

- The Chilly Chili Fest to benefit Joyce Food Shelf will be held on Sunday, February 22, from 12:30-3 p.m. at Bryant Square Park (BSP). A sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated.
- The NRP Steering Committee met on February 12 to develop a revised neighborhood survey that will include a stamped return envelope. The CARAG Board will review the survey prior to mailing.
- The next NRP Committee meeting will be held March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at BSP.

### **Transportation and Energy Committee: Brendan Jordan**

Jordan discussed pending reconstruction of Lyndale Avenue between 31st and 38th Streets and its impact on the neighborhood. Matt Perry will continue to maintain a web page about the project. It was suggested that businesses located along this stretch be approached to act as information conduits to the neighborhood. The Committee also discussed opportunities to connect residents with public funding and technical support for improving energy efficiency in the neighborhood. The metro area Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) is willing to work with the neighborhood to set energy goals and develop strategies to meet them. The T & E Committee meets at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every month at BSP. A volunteer is needed to represent CARAG on the Midtown Greenway Coalition Board. Jordan asked for a straw poll of those present regarding endorsement of an alignment that would carry the Southwest LRT route through the Midtown Greenway. Results showed all in favor with the exception of two opposed and one abstention.

### **Community Engagement Committee: Aaron Rubenstein**

The newly-established Community Engagement Committee seeks to increase neighborhood participation, communication and recruitment. It also plans to update the CARAG website and will coordinate the Stroll Patrol.

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

An article about Uptown published in the Star Tribune on February 15 has drawn concerns from both the Uptown Association and CM Remington. The UA plans to submit an article to the Star Tribune that cites Uptown's many positives. The UA is seeking a business district support grant for marketing of the area. Motion, Seconded for CARAG to write a letter to the City in support of this application. Motion approved 11-6-1. Darlington noted that Council members Remington, Gordon and Samuels have proposed elimination of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

### **Community Input and Announcements: Aaron Rubenstein**

- Mark Hillyer announced a meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, to be held at the National Guard Armory in Northeast Minneapolis, at which various mechanisms will be considered for the selection of neighborhood residents to serve on the new Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). Based on CARAG suggestions, Hillyer will bring to the meeting a proposal that candidates be evaluated by committee and a proposal that candidates be selected by lottery.
- Carl Holmquist noted that the Park Board is seeking community input regarding the proposed construction of a restaurant at Lake Harriet.
- Roxie Speth proposed that an arts and crafts fair be held in Uptown that would feature local artists. It was suggested that a CARAG farmer's market might be held in conjunction with such an event.

- Lara Norkus-Crampton and Meg Tuthill each spoke briefly about their candidacy for City Council and encouraged everyone to attend their precinct caucus meetings on March 3.

**Adjourn** Motion, Seconded to adjourn at 8:53 p.m. Approved.