

CARAG
Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
17 MARCH 2009
Approved at the May 2009 CARAG Meeting

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

Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with the introduction of CARAG Board members. Motion, Seconded to approve the agenda after striking two items and changing the order of several items. Agenda approved.

Community Input and Announcements

- City Council: Matthew Filner spoke briefly about his candidacy for City Council. Candidates Meg Tuthill and Lara Norkus-Crampton spoke briefly at February's CARAG meeting; Norkus-Crampton has since withdrawn her candidacy. Filner reminded CARAG that the forum for candidates seeking DFL endorsement for the 10th ward will be held at Jefferson Elementary School on March 22 at 1:30 p.m.
- Becky Bellefeuille reminded CARAG about the fundraiser for the Joyce Uptown Food Shelf to be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, March 29. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.
- NCEC: Mark Hillyer reported on a February 21 meeting at which input was gathered to determine the mechanism by which eight neighborhood residents will be selected to serve on the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). Two to three additional meetings will follow. It is hoped that the new 16-member NCEC board will be constituted within the year.

Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan: Amanda Arnold

Arnold, Principal City Planner, presented an overview of the Lyn-Lake Small Area Plan (LLSAP). Work on the LLSAP began in April 2008. On February 21, 2009, the draft LLSAP completed the community process and entered a 45-day public comment period that will end April 6. The LLSAP is tentatively scheduled to go to the Planning Commission April 20. Arnold provided maps of the Lyn-Lake study area, land use features and future land use and she discussed key recommendations of the plan. The Board reviewed the draft of CARAG's Statement on the Draft LLSAP. Motion by the Zoning Committee to approve the draft Statement with modifications. Motion Seconded and Approved with one abstention after modification of the heading about land use and transitions on the south side of Lake Street in CARAG to add "and Lyndale"; deletion of building names in a paragraph about the existing scale of development in Lyn-Lake; and the addition of language emphasizing the positives of the LLSAP.

AchieveMpls: Catherine Jordan

Jordan spoke briefly about AchieveMpls, an organization that supports Minneapolis Public Schools, and the STEP-UP Summer Jobs Program, which partners with local companies to provide job readiness training and summer job placement for City youth up to the age of 21.

Minutes

Motion, Seconded to approve February's CARAG meeting minutes with a sentence re-worded to read that Verson had 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. Motion Approved with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report: Anna Matthes

- A total of \$651.25 was raised at the Chilly Chili Fest to benefit Joyce Uptown Food Shelf. Schiefelbein, speaking for the Livability Committee, noted that this year's Chili Fest received the largest number of dry goods donations ever.

- The CARAG Operations Account Financial Report as of February 28 showed a checking account balance of \$12,674.21 and asset accounts valued at \$7,852.20. Matthes noted that the report does not reflect the recent purchase of a fourth CD in the amount of \$3000, which puts the current balance in checking at \$9,674.21.
- Matthes provided a spreadsheet of CARAG Actual Spending, which reflects income and expenses over a 4-year period ending FY 2008. She and Executive Coordinator Scott Engel are looking at various scenarios involving spending cuts, identifying additional revenue sources and/or rebalancing CARAG's NRP strategies in an effort to further reduce expenses; additional NRP input is also expected.

Uptown Neighborhood News (UNN) Treasurer's Report: No report.

Zoning Committee: Aaron Rubenstein

- The CARAG Zoning Committee met on March 11. In regard to Calhoun Square ramp lighting, the Committee plans to send a letter to the City, asking that it expeditiously evaluate whether the ramp's lighting complies with the site plan and city standards.
- Zen restaurant has opened at 3016 Lyndale Avenue and has requested a license to sell beer and wine. Motion by the Zoning Committee (ZC) to approve the recommendation that a license be granted. Seconded and Approved.
- The ZC also voted to send a letter in opposition to any proposed building at the northeast corner of Knox Avenue and Lake Street that exceeds 35 feet in height, stressing CARAG's strong support for the Uptown Small Area Plan (USAP) and its policies concerning development on this site. Motion, Seconded to approve the draft of the letter. Discussion ensued about re-wording parts of the draft. Potential consequences of CARAG's taking no action were also discussed. It was decided that rather than rush to send the draft in its current form, it was more important to reach a broader agreement on the wording. Motion to table the discussion, Seconded and Approved 8-2.

NRP Update: Scott Engel

- Engel reported that the NRP Steering Committee has drafted a new neighborhood survey; the survey has now been circulated to the Board for comment. Rubenstein will work with Jen Walsh to incorporate a number of modifications to the survey suggested by Taylor. The survey will be sent to over 4000 addresses at a proposed cost of \$1792 for printing, addressing and postage. A sum of just \$1500 is available for this effort, therefore the mailing will be over-budget by approximately \$300. Nevertheless, CARAG is strongly in favor of sending out the survey as the information is needed for NRP planning purposes. Motion, Seconded to approve the total expenditure incurred by distribution of the survey. Motion carried unanimously.
- Engel also discussed the Scope of Services for Bryant Square Park (BSP) Youth Activities submitted through the CARAG Livability Committee by BSP Recreation Leader, Julie Sandin. Engel stated that remaining monies would be reallocated from the Pangea World Theater project to Youth Outdoor Adventure Program Activities. Taylor asked whether CARAG might stipulate that a minimum number of children accepted into the program be from the CARAG neighborhood. However, it was suggested that the Park Board may not permit such restrictions. Motion, Seconded to provide \$1200 in CARAG NRP funds to support the Youth Outdoor Adventure Program coordinated by BSP. Approved.

Transportation and Energy Committee: Brendan Jordan

The Transportation and Energy Committee met on March 14. Jordan discussed the 3 proposed light rail alignments, one of which (3C) would carry the Southwest LRT route through the Midtown Greenway. At its last meeting CARAG voted in favor of asking the T & E Committee to draw up a resolution of support regarding the 3C alignment, which 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 near the new Twins ballpark. The alternatives are the 1A and 3A alignments, both of which would carry the line between Cedar Lake and Lake of the Isles north into downtown. As an alternative to the 3C alignment, some T & E Committee members support a "network alignment" that combines the 3A/1A alignment with a streetcar through the Midtown Greenway, connecting West Lake Street with the Hiawatha Line at Midtown. Discussion followed about the uncertainty of funding for streetcars versus the strong likelihood of the Southwest

Transitway being built. Motion, Seconded to approve the draft CARAG Resolution in Support of the 3C Alignment of the Southwest Transitway. Motion approved 8-3.

Uptown Market: Brendan Jordan

At the last CARAG meeting, Roxie Speth proposed that an arts and crafts fair be held in Uptown featuring local artisans and craftspeople; Jordan suggested that a CARAG farmer's market might be held in conjunction with such a project. The Uptown Market is planned for 29th Street between Aldrich and Colfax Avenues. Today Jordan and Speth reported that plans are progressing rapidly. They have contacted the offices of CMs Lilligren and Remington and are pursuing City permits. They are looking into the possibility of CARAG being the fiscal agent for the project and a website has been set up for the project at Uptownmarket.org.

Midtown Greenway Coalition: Aaron Rubenstein

Jordan is leaving his position as representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition and a new representative is needed. Ellan Meyer expressed interest in becoming CARAG's representative to the Coalition. Due to time constraints, action is deferred to the CARAG meeting in April.

Other Committee Reports:

Due to lack of time, two items, a report from the Personnel Committee and the Uptown Association Update, were dropped from the meeting's agenda.

Adjourn Motion, Seconded to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Maren Nowicki