



**Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2010 7PM Bryant Square Park**

Approved at the May 2010 CARAG Meeting

Board Members In Attendance: Julie Cohen, John Darlington, Zack Farley, Jeff Forester, Jen Nelson, Aaron Rubenstein, Samantha Strong, Howard Verson

Also Present: Scott Engel

Absent: Brendan Jordan

Introductions & Approve Agenda, Aaron Rubenstein

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Agenda presented with the addition of time to discuss the Lyn-Lake Festival. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded and approved.

Lyn-Lake Street Festival, Kerry! Givens

Kerry! Givens, the Executive Director of the YMCA Blaisdell branch, provided information about the 2nd Annual Lyn-Lake Festival and Bike Rally taking place on Sunday, May 16th, from 12-7PM. The Bike Rally is a fundraiser for the YMCA Blaisdell branch. Registration costs \$45 and participants are automatically entered into a drawing to win a new bike (two bikes are being given away). Kids 12 and under ride free. There is a 20 mile route and 30 mile route from which to choose. For more information, please visit <http://lynlakestreetfestival.com>.

Approve Consent Agenda, Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to approve the consent agenda, including a vote to approve up to \$400 plus shipping to purchase a new printer for the CARAG office. Motion seconded and approved.

Bryant Bike Boulevard, Shaun Murphy

The Bryant Bike Boulevard project is a four mile connection from 58th St W to Loring Park. In November, a working group toured the entire Bryant Ave S corridor and then gathered feedback from neighborhood groups at a February 9th neighborhood meeting. The Minneapolis Department of Public Works is now communicating their staff recommendations to the wider community before presenting to MNDOT in a couple of weeks. Implementation is tentatively scheduled for later this year. Recommendations for bicycling improvements on Bryant Ave S as they pertain to the CARAG neighborhood include bump outs at 28th and 26th Streets to improve sight lines, raised pedestrian crosswalk and bump outs at 29th Street to slow motorists and improve pedestrian crossing, "Bicycle Boulevard" route marker and destination signs, and intermittent, green background lanes between Lake Street and 36th Street. Following Shaun's presentation, neighborhood residents asked questions and provided feedback about the proposed improvements. Additional questions and feedback regarding the Public Works recommendation are welcome, and can be addressed to Shaun Murphy at (612) 333-2450 or shaun.murphy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Council Member Meg Tuthill

The vendor carts ordinance in downtown Minneapolis was recently passed. Vendor carts may start to move into surrounding neighborhoods in the future. The City Council is discussing streetcar availability for communities including the Midtown Greenway corridor (50% of this project is funded by federal stimulus dollars). On Friday, April 2nd, the City Council adopted the Midtown Greenway Rezoning Study zoning changes. The City Council also received the mayor's supplemental budget. Meg shared the good news that Minneapolis has regained its AAA credit rating from Moody's Investor Service. The city last received this credit rating in 2001. Meg announced the launch of her "Meet Me For Lunch" events scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the 5th Precinct's Community Room (3101 Nicollet Ave) from 11AM-1PM. Bring your lunch; cookies and punch will be provided. The first event is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th. There is a block leader training on Wednesday, April 28th, from 6:30-8PM at the Minneapolis Police Dept's 5th Precinct Community Room. Meg has been receiving reports of excessive noise in the neighborhoods after bar close. Please call Meg at (612) 673-2210 to report a disturbance and be sure to tell her where and when the disturbance occurred. You can also call 311. Meg is compiling this information for a town meeting being held on Thursday, May 20th, at Bryant Square

Park to discuss ways in which the community and neighboring businesses can live and work together. Visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward10/> to sign up for email updates from Council Member Meg Tuthill.

Uptown Neighborhood News, Elizabeth Walke

UNN financials are looking good; the paper is in a much better financial situation than it was just months ago. The April issue generated a lot of ad sales because of the Earth Day theme. Ralph Knox, Chair of the UNN Managing Board, reported that the board is running quite well and they are functioning quite well despite a vacancy. The CARAG board may not be able to appoint anyone to the UNN Managing Board until after the annual meeting. The board will discuss via email whether it should assign an interim board member to serve until then. The CARAG board requested that UNN Managing Board minutes and financials be provided on a monthly basis. The May edition of the UNN will include a schedule and new location for future UNN Managing Board meetings.

Neighborhood Livability & Engagement Committee Report, Julie Cohen

CARAG currently has \$6,000 in NRP funds allocated to make improvements to the interior of the Bryant Square Park. The BSP Recreation Center is in need of 1) a new stove, 2) lobby furniture and carpet, 3) a dishwasher, and 4) a kitchen stove venting system. Costs estimates for the first three items, including installation, total approximately \$6,100. Julie Sandin has generously offered to chip in the difference. A motion was made to provide \$6,000 in CARAG NRP funds to purchase and install a new stove, lobby furniture and carpet, and dishwasher. There are not enough NRP funds to cover the cost of the kitchen stove venting system. Julie Sandin will discuss other funding options with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Motion seconded and approved. ECCO and CARAG participated in the 16th Annual Minneapolis Earth Day Clean Up on Saturday, April 17th. Approximately 75 people checked in at the East Calhoun station to help clean up the lake. Thanks to all who attended. The committee also unveiled the new CARAG fans and provided an update on the new CARAG t-shirts that have been ordered.

NRP Steering Committee Report, Samantha Strong

The committee presented its plan to reallocate and rollover unspent dollars from Phase I to Phase II. A motion was made to reallocate \$81,000 from Phase I strategies to Public Gardens (\$1,000), CARAG Neighborhood Livability & Engagement Committee/Events (\$5,000), and Office & Staff Support (\$75,000); and to rollover \$124,924.48 from Phase I strategies to a Phase II general strategy. Motion seconded and approved. A draft of the Phase II plan will be presented at the next CARAG neighborhood meeting on May 18th.

Zoning Committee Report, Aaron Rubenstein

The committee met on April 15th to discuss the Mozaic project, the Calhoun Square Parking Ramp, and the new Uptown Cafeteria on Lake Street and Girard Avenue. The Mozaic project went to the Planning Commission for concept review and presumably will go back for formal review. They are proposing to divide the project into three phases: 1) a one-story retail/commercial building with a six-story parking ramp above; 2) two one- to two-story commercial buildings; and 3) an eight-story residential or office building. The light shields that Calhoun Square installed in the parking ramp have proven effective; however, additional shields are still needed on the upper levels of the ramp. Aaron will communicate this to Calhoun Square management. Uptown Cafeteria has applied for their liquor license and started construction on its rooftop patio that will seat 166 people. Neighborhood residents are concerned about the cumulative effect of liquor establishments in the Uptown neighborhoods. The Zoning Committee has called for a group meeting with neighborhood residents, City Council members, and restaurant/bar owners to discuss how we can work together to resolve these commercial district/neighborhood livability issues.

Board of Directors Retreat, Aaron Rubenstein

Minutes from the January retreat were reviewed to evaluate progress on CARAG's 2010 goals. Aaron will initiate an online discussion with the board to determine what items need to be focused on moving forward. Scott suggested canceling the July neighborhood meeting to hold the next Board of Directors retreat, as this meeting is the least attended.

Adjourn, Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to adjourn the general meeting at 8:52PM. Motion seconded and approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Julie Cohen.