



**Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2010 7PM Bryant Square Park**

: Approved at the March 2010 CARAG Meeting

Board Members In Attendance: Julie Cohen, John Darlington, Zack Farley, Jeff Forester, Brendan Jordan, Aaron Rubenstein, Howard Verson

Also Present: Scott Engel

Absent: Jen Nelson

Introductions & Approve Agenda: Aaron Rubenstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. Agenda presented with addition of the UNN financial report to the consent agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded and approved.

Approve Consent Agenda: Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to adopt the consent agenda. Motion seconded and approved.

Council Member Meg Tuthill

Tuthill commended the City of Lakes Loppet event, which brings over 7,000 people to our community to shop and eat; the event is not paid for with tax dollars. Tuthill will be on hand to help at the Feb. 28 CARAG Chilly Chili Fest. Tuthill was in attendance at the recent Bryant Avenue Bike Boulevard meeting. She has two concerns about the proposal with regard to the clearance needed for the roundabout and parking availability. Tuthill also provided an update on the Midtown Greenway Re-zoning project, indicating that they will approve 90-98% of CARAG's zoning requests. Bryant Avenue and Grand will not be exempt from the winter parking restrictions. One-way parking will go into effect soon. Public Works has been quite responsive. Tuthill encouraged residents to participate in "The 3/50 Project." Pick three local businesses and spend \$50 at each to help support our local economy.

Park Board Commissioner Brad Bourn

New Commissioner Bourn introduced himself and gave a recap of his appointments and committees (including the city's Planning Commission). Of high-profile importance will be the national search for a new Park Board Superintendent. The current Park Board Superintendent's contract expires in June; the Park Board is considering its options, including an interim Park Board Superintendent or having a new Superintendent in place in time for the October National Park Board Commissioners conference being held in Minneapolis. Commissioner Bourn can be reached via email or phone. Contact information can be found at www.minneapolisparcs.org.

Crime & Safety Report, CPS Chelsea Adams

Adams has been a crime prevention specialist for three years and is newly assigned to the CARAG neighborhood. Adams reported that robbery, theft, and auto theft are down 7.24% for 2008-2009 and down 23% so far for 2009-2010. The reduction in neighborhood graffiti could be attributed to an increase in beat officers.

Walker Library, Kelsey Dawson and Lois Lenroot-Ernt

The redevelopment of the Walker Library is a community-driven process. A Walker Library Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has been created to help drive this process. The CAC meetings are open to the public; residents are encouraged to attend. The CAC has drafted a vision statement for the new Walker Library, which will be approved at the next CAC meeting on Feb. 18. The vision statement encompasses all of the elements the CAC wants to see in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process that the Design Selection Committee will head up. These elements include accessibility, sustainability, access to technology, design, and a connection to the Greenway among others. The CAC is recommending that the new Walker Library be built on the existing site. After the RFPs are submitted, the Design Selection Committee will recommend one firm and two alternates, which the Hennepin County Commissioners will approve. There was some discussion about the "Greenway Center" plan that has been proposed by a developer ahead of the RFP process. ECCO and LHENA have decided not to meet with the developer to discuss the plan until the RFP process has been made public in an effort to respect the community process. A motion was made that CARAG also wait to meet with this developer until after the RFP process is made public. Motion seconded and approved.

Uptown Market, Brendan Jordan

The Uptown Market has a goal of holding weekly markets this summer between the 1st of June and mid-September. A motion was made to approve a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CARAG and the Uptown Market. Motion seconded and approved with one abstention. A motion was made that Jordan draft a CARAG letter of support to be sent to the City of Minneapolis. Brendan will email a draft to the CARAG board for approval. Motion seconded and approved. A motion was made to approve five Uptown Market board members for another two-year commitment. Motion seconded and approved. Motion made to approved revised Uptown Market Committee Procedures as amended. Motion seconded and approved.

Neighborhood Livability & Engagement Committee, Diana Boegermann

The CARAG Chilly Chili Fest is Sunday, Feb. 28, from 12:30 to 3PM. Volunteers are needed. Residents are encouraged to attend. Proceeds benefit the Joyce Food Shelf.

The committee made a motion to contract \$12,104.51 in NRP funds from Strategy 15.1 with the Minneapolis Park Forestry to plant boulevard trees over the next 3-5 years. Motion seconded and approved.

Zoning Committee Report, Aaron Rubenstein

A motion was made to show CARAG support of the proposed new Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum. Motion seconded and approved. With regard to the proposed new restaurant building at 3005 Emerson, a motion was made to recommend denial of the north setback variance. Motion seconded and approved, two abstentions. A motion was made to recommend denial of the parking variance. Motion seconded and approved, one nay and one abstention. A motion was made to recommend approval of the front setback variance. Motion seconded and failed 4-7-1. A motion was then made to recommend denial of the front setback variance. Motion seconded and approved 7-5-1. A motion was made to recommend approval of the south setback variance with a condition that an acoustical engineer be hired to examine and recommend ways to reduce sound transmission from the rear patio, including the possibility of a 12' masonry wall from the southeast corner of the main mass of the building to the alley, and that these recommendations be implemented. Motion seconded and approved. A motion was made to recommend that valet parking not be permitted. Motion seconded and approved. A motion was made to recommend the city attach the following conditions if the variances are approved: no amplified or unamplified music outside the building; the restaurant shall close by 10:00 P.M. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 P.M. Friday and Saturday; and kitchen venting shall be located to minimize odors to adjacent residential area. Motion seconded and approved. A final motion was made to recommend the city adhere to the Uptown Small Area Plan policies, calling for residential uses on north/south streets. Motion seconded and approved. With regard to the proposed Calhoun Square Sign Plan, a motion was made to recommend approval of the parking ramp signage, but recommend denial of the remaining requested exceptions based on multiple factors. Motion seconded and approved.

Vacant CARAG Positions, Aaron Rubenstein

An open seat was declared on the CARAG board. Samantha Strong was nominated; Strong accepted the nomination. Nominations will remain open until the March neighborhood meeting. Ellan Meyer nominated herself to be the CARAG representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition. The nomination was approved. Thank you, Ellan! Jeff Forester was nominated as the CARAG board representative to the UNN Managing Board. Nominations are still open for this seat as no decision was made.

Adjourn, Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to adjourn the general meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion seconded and approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Julie Cohen.