



**Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2010 7PM Bryant Square Park**

Approved at the February 2010 CARAG Meeting

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

Also Present: Scott Engel

Absent: Jeff Forester

Introductions & Approve Agenda: Aaron Rubenstein

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Agenda presented with several additions. Motion, seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion approved.

NRP Survey Drawing: Aaron Rubenstein, Brendan Jordan

Names of two survey respondents were drawn to receive a \$25 gift certificate from any CARAG business of their choice. Steven C. and Danielle P. were announced as the winners. CARAG Executive Coordinator will notify the winners and make arrangements for them to receive their gift certificates.

Approve Consent Agenda: Aaron Rubenstein

Motion, seconded to adopt the consent agenda including approval of the December 15 meeting minutes and Virgil McDill as UNN check signer, and acknowledging receipt of the Treasurer's report (CARAG December and 1st quarter FY2010 & NRP 1st quarter FY2010) -and UNN financial benchmarks. Motion approved.

CARAG Board and Treasurer Vacancies: Aaron Rubenstein

Jen Nelson was nominated at the December neighborhood meeting. A call for other nominations was made. Hearing none, Jen Nelson was approved as the ninth CARAG board member. The CARAG board voted unanimously via email over the following two days to appoint Jen Nelson as Treasurer and approve eding her as a check signer (CARAG and NRP accounts).

A call for nominations was also made for a CARAG representative to the Midtown Greenway Coalition. Nominations were left open until the February 16 meeting.

Council Member Meg Tuthill Update: Meg Tuthill

Council Member Meg Tuthill and her staff provided an update, stating that it's been quiet downtown but is now starting to pick back up. Council Member Tuthill is on the Zoning & Planning, Public Safety & Health, and Ways & Means committees. Office hours are Monday – Friday, 9AM – 5PM; constituents are encouraged to contact the office via phone or email. Council Member Tuthill will try to attend every CARAG neighborhood meeting possible, and if she cannot attend, one of her staff members will. Council Member Tuthill took comments and questions from CARAG residents in attendance, addressing the Midtown Greenway Rezoning Study, a snow pile and bulldozer on a vacant lot at 3108 Girard Avenue, the Uptown Market, and the viability of the Greenway streetcar project.

Lake Calhoun Letter of Connection: Aaron Rubenstein

Discussion deferred until end of meeting to give those in attendance time to review the letter.

Transfer of UNN Financial Records: Aaron Rubenstein

The UNN checkbook and other instruments were transferred today to the CARAG Executive Coordinator. Jill Bode said she would get all remaining financial records to the CARAG office by the end of the week. Mary Ann Knox and Virgil McDill volunteered to help prepare the 1099s for UNN contractors in the UNN Treasurer's temporary absence.

Uptown Neighborhood News: Aaron Rubenstein

Aaron Rubenstein provided opening remarks, outlining developments from the November meeting to now and citing the two motions Jill Bode and Anna Matthes made at the November 2009 CARAG meeting that were tabled (Motion 1: "Jill

~~and Anna will perform all management functions for UNN by acting as business managers for CARAG for approximately three months, at which time CARAG will transfer ownership of the UNN to their LLC." Motion 2: "To remove all UNN references from the CARAG by laws." to remove all UNN references from the CARAG bylaws and for CARAG to appoint Jill and Anna as UNN business managers, making all business decisions for three months, at the end of which time CARAG will transfer ownership of UNN to an LLC formed by them).~~ Ground rules for respectful community discussion were also communicated. Mary Ann Knox made a third motion, stating, "Whereas the *Uptown Neighborhood News* (UNN) is a community-owned asset, co-managed and jointly enjoyed by CARAG and ECCO, and whereas the ECCO and UNN boards have voted to retain the current structure of the UNN, I move that CARAG retain the current structure of the UNN." Motion seconded. Another motion was made to table all the motions currently on the floor until the end of the discussion, and to focus instead on a respectful discussion of the issues at hand. Motion approved, one nay, one abstention. ~~There was an attempt to have a discussion of issues facing UNN and possible solutions. Jill and Anna were then invited to present their proposal. They essentially declined. Both prongs generated identification of only a few issues with no discussion. Jill Bode then withdrew her proposal and motions. Mary Ann Knox said she wanted her motion to remain on the floor. Aaron Rubenstein suggested amending the last phrase of that motion, stating, "Whereas the *Uptown Neighborhood News* (UNN) is a community-owned asset, co-managed and jointly enjoyed by CARAG and ECCO, and whereas the ECCO and UNN boards have voted to retain the current structure of the UNN, CARAG supports retaining the current structure of the UNN."~~ Amendment accepted and motion approved with two abstentions.

~~[Julie, I think it's important to include any motions, in their entirety, that are on the floor for discussion, so I added Jill and Anna's motions from November. I took the language from the final draft of the November minutes. Would you please check the approved minutes to see if there were any changes to the wording of these motions? As you can see, I myself changed the wording here for clarity, as I did at Tuesday's meeting; I think that's appropriate for clarity and given that we did not vote on them. ar]~~

It was brought to the attention of the board that some slanderous comments were made about members of the UNN managing board on the CARAG Forum Yahoo group. Aaron Rubenstein and Scott Engel assured the UNN managing board members that these comments would be removed immediately and that personal slander would not be tolerated. A motion was made to remove the CARAG Forum Yahoo group until it can be moderated more closely. Motion seconded and approved.

Zoning Committee Report: Aaron Rubenstein

Review and discussion of the proposed restaurant building at 3005 Emerson Av. S. was postponed at least two weeks as Clark Gassen has withdrawn the project in order to revise its design based on neighborhood concerns.

The Zoning Committee recommended that CARAG approve the requested side yard setback variances for 3125 Girard Av. S. with conditions regarding fencing and review of exterior plans/materials. Several residents who live next door to this property expressed their concerns about the back door only access for three of the four units, citing excessive foot traffic and noise as a result of limited access and the exterior stairway. The property is zoned R5, high-density residential, but neighboring residents are worried that the existing building plan and variances make the neighborhood a less desirable place to live. A motion was made to not take a position on the variances and express concerns about the design issues with regard to the exterior stairway, rear fences, elevations, and building materials. Motion seconded and approved.

Lake Calhoun Letter of Connection: Aaron Rubenstein

Agenda item revisited at end of meeting. Aaron thanked Jeff Forester for drafting the Lake Calhoun letter of connection. No modifications were proposed. Motion, seconded to approve the letter. Motion approved.

Adjourn: Aaron Rubenstein

Motion, seconded to adjourn the general meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Julie Cohen.