



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

DRAFT: Approved at the April 2010 CARAG Meeting

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

Also Present: Scott Engel

Absent: Brendan Jordan, Aaron Rubenstein

Introductions & Approve Agenda, Julie Cohen

Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. Agenda presented with the addition of time to discuss a letter of support for the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition and next steps with regard to the Calhoun Square parking ramp lights. Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded and approved.

Approve Consent Agenda, Julie Cohen

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

Bryant Square Park Report, Julie Sandin

Outdoor summer concert series has been finalized and will be posted to the CARAG website soon. Registration for youth baseball and Summer Rec Plus programs has begun. Visit the Bryant Square Park Recreation Center for more information.

Nature Valley Grand Prix, Thatcher Imboden

Last year's Grand Prix bicycle race was a huge success. The event is returning this year on Friday, June 18, and is sponsored by MN Bicycle Festivals. Proceeds will benefit the Children's Hospital and Clinics of Minnesota. Host housing for riders is needed. If interested, visit www.minnbikefestival.com.

The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition requested a formal letter of support from CARAG allowing the city to close the streets surrounding the bike race area 15 minutes earlier (5:45pm rather than 6pm) than last year. Parking restriction signs will be posted, the Uptown Association will be contacted, and residents in the surrounding neighborhoods will be notified via door knocking and/or flyer. A motion was made that CARAG write a formal letter of support for this request; motion seconded and approved.

The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition also requested a letter of support for additional bicycle parking in the CARAG and surrounding neighborhoods. A formal ask for funds was not made; however, CARAG may identify additional NRP funds to fund this project.

Council Member Meg Tuthill

The Chilly Chili Fest was a huge success! Thank you to everyone for their hard work. See the Public Works City of Minneapolis website for up-to-date information on public meetings regarding the Bryant Ave S, Blaisdell Ave S, and First Avenue bike boulevards. Registration for raingarden workshops is now open; see www.metroblooms.org for more information. Two local business owners received awards from the Lake Street Council. Top Shelf owner John Meegan received the Community Responsibility award, and Mike Riehle, owner of Sauce Spirits & Soundbar, received the Start-up and Innovation award. Visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward10/> to sign up for email updates from Council Member Tuthill.

Vacant CARAG Positions, Julie Cohen

Additional recruiting and advertising efforts to attract nominees for the CARAG board were discussed. Samantha Strong, a local homeowner and small green business owner, accepted the CARAG board nomination at the February meeting. A motion was made to elect Samantha Strong to the CARAG board; motion seconded and approved. The Uptown Neighborhood News Managing Board Representative position is still open. It was suggested that CARAG invite members

of the UNN to regularly attend the monthly neighborhood meetings to provide updates, with the hope of generating interest in serving on the UNN Managing Board. A UNN update will be added to all future CARAG agendas.

CARAG Meeting Topic Ideas, Julie Cohen

In an effort to attract more residents to the neighborhood monthly meetings, CARAG is compiling a list of agenda topic ideas generated from the CARAG board retreat, recommendations from other neighborhood associations, and previous agenda items that drew attendance. The CARAG board asked those in attendance about what sort of agenda topics would interest them most. Ideas included inviting the Tax Assessor and City Inspector to come and answer questions, inviting new and established business owners to come and talk about their challenges and successes, a landlord/renter forum, etc. Residents also discussed other neighborhood association projects that have been successful such as the Linden Hills composting project, and how to engage renters through outreach.

Treasurer's Report, Jennifer Nelson

A draft NRP rollover budget was provided. Funds from line items/projects that are either completed, or will not likely be utilized in their current category have been moved into other categories. One category that must be funded is Office & Staff Support. The NRP Steering Committee proposed moving two years of administrative expenses into this line item. For further information, please attend the next NRP meeting being held on Wednesday, March 24. The Chilly Chili Fest collected nearly \$500 for the Joyce Food Shelf. Thanks again to Nancy Sjoquist and Diana Boegemann and all the volunteers for their efforts in putting on a great Chilly Chili Fest.

Zoning Committee Report, Julie Cohen

Discussed the lighting specifications for the Calhoun Square parking ramp, what was actually installed and its impact on neighboring residents. Also discussed CARAG's position with regard to this matter and how to proceed with the issue. A motion was made to request that Calhoun Square make available all documents relevant to questions raised with regard to lighting test results and specifications in a timely fashion before CARAG agrees to any other remedial action as it pertains to installing additional shields. Motion seconded. A second motion was made to strike "...before CARAG agrees to any other remedial action as it pertains to installing additional shields" from this motion. Motion seconded and approved with one opposed. The Zoning Committee will discuss inviting Calhoun Square management, the City Planner who approved the lighting specifications, Council Member Meg Tuthill, the Uptown Association, and neighboring residents to the next Zoning Committee meeting to discuss this issue further.

Community Announcements, Julie Cohen

The Uptown Market is having a fundraising event on Wednesday, April 21. Visit www.uptownmarket.org for more information.

Adjourn, Julie Cohen

Motion to adjourn the general meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion seconded and approved.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jen Nelson and Julie Cohen.