



**Calhoun Area Residents Action Group
Monthly Neighborhood Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2010 7PM Bryant Square Park**

Approved at the June 2010 CARAG Meeting

Board Members Present: John Darlington, Jeff Forester, Jen Nelson, Aaron Rubenstein, Samantha Strong, Howard Verson

Also Present: Scott Engel

Absent: Julie Cohen, Zack Farley, Brendan Jordan

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Introductions & Approve Agenda, Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to approve agenda. Motion seconded and carried.

Approve Consent Agenda, Aaron Rubenstein

Motion to approve Consent Agenda (April meeting minutes, CARAG and UNN Treasurer's reports).
Motion seconded and carried.

Pizza Lucé Block Party, Colin Hanks

Colin announced the Pizza Lucé 7th annual Block Party and sought CARAG's support. It will be held on Saturday, August 14, from noon to 10 PM on 32nd St. between Lyndale and Aldrich. A full day of games, contests, activities for all ages, and live music is planned. A motion was made to send a letter of recommendation in support of the event to Meg Tuthill and to the City Licensing Bureau. Motion seconded and carried.

Cowboy Slim's Karaoke Contest, Brian Asmus

Brian announced Cowboy Slim's 2nd annual "Sand and Saddles" event planned for Saturday, June 19, from noon to 10 PM. The event will feature bands, contests, and games. A motion was made to approve "Sands and Saddles" with a letter of recommendation. Motion seconded and approved.

Council Member Meg Tuthill

Ward 10 Council Member Meg Tuthill talked about a number of issues including a May 12 meeting at Joyce Church that she organized to address noise issues from outdoor patios at Uptown bars/restaurants and neighborhood impacts. Representatives of several restaurants attended. Issues and solutions were discussed including parking, over-serving, limiting sound levels of amplified music, security, and encouraging patrons to be respectful of neighbors through the use of signs, etc. A city environmental services employee will be checking outdoor sound levels.

Meg strongly encouraged people to call 911 when there are livability issues such as noisy, drunk, late-night patrons disturbing the peace. Sometimes police can respond quickly, and even if they can't, it's important to call to demonstrate the problems, which may influence the allocation of police resources.

Meg urged cooperation between neighborhoods and merchants, and issued a plea for CARAG residents to support neighborhood businesses. They are experiencing the stress of the economic downturn.

Neighborhood Livability and Engagement Committee, Diana Boegemann

Diane highlighted summer activities at Bryant Square Park including movies, volleyball, and softball. Bike to Work Day (www.bikewalkweek.org) has been moved to June 10. The annual Plant Swap will be Saturday, June 5, at 1:00 PM at Bryant Square Park (it's over in about five minutes, so be on time!). The Garden Tour will take place on three dates in June. A new stove and dishwasher have been installed in the park building, and new carpeting and furniture are being selected, thanks to funding from CARAG. The CARAG website is being updated. CARAG "fans" have been updated and are now available.

At the last NL&E committee meeting, the committee voted to recommend that CARAG replace its existing logo with Bruce Cochran's CARAG sign design ("CARAG Neighborhood Welcomes You!") as its new logo. A motion was made to approve the committee's recommendation. Motion seconded and carried.

Draft CARAG NRP Phase 2 Action Plan, Jen Nelson

Jen Nelson presented a draft of CARAG's NRP Phase II plan that she authored with the help of the NRP Steering Committee. The committee plans to present the final draft for neighborhood approval at CARAG's annual meeting in September. Jen reviewed the proposed programs that encompass the largest percentage of the \$636,000 Phase II allotment.

Aaron suggested and board members concurred that, due to the low turn-out at the neighborhood meeting, the board would look through the remainder of the draft plan individually and raise questions, concerns, and suggestions afterward. The questions and suggestions that were raised were referred to the May 26 meeting of the NRP Steering Committee.

Zoning Committee Report, Aaron Rubenstein

Aaron also commented on the May 12 "Neighborhood Noise" meeting, stressing the good turn-out and productive outcome. He raised the issue of noise in terms of the timing of the current liquor licensing in Uptown.

Community Announcements

Scott Brooks, candidate for District 60B House of Representatives, introduced himself and answered questions about his platform.

The Uptown Association is sponsoring a town hall meeting about the need for neighborhoods and businesses to work together on Thursday, May 20, at 6:30 PM at Bryant Square Park featuring Council Member Meg Tuthill.

Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Motion seconded and carried.

Minutes recorded by John Darlington and submitted by Julie Cohen.