

Congress Park Neighbors, Inc., Board
Minutes of meeting held August 19, 2009

Vice President Tom Conis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were: Bill DeMaio, Maggie Price, Ed Connolly, Tom Conis and Wendy Moraskie of the Board. Neighbors who attended were: Gerry Frank, Alley Metzgar, Greg Caruthers, Ted Boeckman, Lisa Boeckman, John Van Sciver, David Williams James Earhart and John Gibbons.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved with amendments.

Greg Caruthers said that during the recent rezoning of the York and Josephine properties, the City did not supply the signage, but the neighbors were expected to have the signs printed and produced. John Van Sciver paid \$270 for the signs himself. Greg, one of the homeowners, asked if the Board would authorize John's reimbursement. A motion to reimburse John was made by Wendy and unanimously approved with the addition that the Board send a postal letter over the president's signature to the affected neighbors that:

- congratulates the neighbors on the successful rezoning;
- outlines rezoning as a neighborhood goal, that CPN has actively supported through 4 projects;
- reiterates the funds contributed to rezoning efforts by the neighborhood;
- notes that the RNO attempts to keep neighbors informed of current issues and raises the new zoning code as a coming issue,
- points out that members' involvement and membership fees help the RNO stay involved and keep neighbors informed, and
- suggests that the neighbors on these blocks become members and sign up for email blasts to keep informed as the new zoning code is discussed.

Wendy volunteered to draft the letter and send it to the Board for edits and approval.

Bill DeMaio updated the attendees on the recent zoning code discussions, and told everyone about the next District 10 meeting with Jeanne Robb at the Molly Blank building on August 25 at 6 p.m. Recent discussions included:

- A change to the row house height from 3 stories to 2 ½ stories, (and height restriction?)
- ADUs
- change in proposal for blocks for 11th to 13th from (something) to USU-B-A (??Bill—help!)
- two lots designated as TBD at the southwest corner of Colfax and Milwaukee was surmised to be just a computer glitch. But bill and John said Wendy should ask Jeanne and make sure to be at the August 25 meeting to ask the zoning people about it.

For the August 25 meeting, John VS recommended explaining CPN's suggestions for the zoning code proposal, and eliciting additional ideas. Bill agreed, and asked if J could lead that discussion, since Bill would not be able to attend. John agreed.

Membership: Ed reported that he has sent out a batch of welcome packages and he will be sending another batch for July new neighbors. Tom said he would also send neighborhood brochures to the new neighbors. At the Ice Cream Social Ed said we signed up a few new members and several people took yard signs.

Newsletter: Wendy handed out new newsletters, just delivered to her porch on Wednesday, and a brief discussion ensued about delivery. Wendy said Kathleen and she would be working on that with Julie. Guest Gerry Frank suggested we could call on the 10:30 Catholic Community for delivery of fliers and perhaps the newsletter occasionally, with a week's notice.

Ice Cream Social: Discussion tabled until next meeting. However, Maggie needs photos for the website, and the newsletter could use some, too.

INC: Bill reported that the meeting was mostly about zoning, no crime report to share.

Botanic Gardens: Bill reported that the garage is now open, although only a small portion, and that it is exactly like the rendering s and plans, although people may think it looks different.

Website: Maggie said she's working on how to get advertising onto the website, and how that will relate to newsletter advertising.

Sengers/3014: New ownership will be Nick, one of the Brothers in Brothers BBQ. They will probably not have BBQ, nor a full kitchen, and will review the agreement CPN had with Senger's to see if they can honor it. When approached about parking, The owner/manager appeared not to be very concerned about it and mentioned that many of their customers took the bus.

The standard neighborhood agreement language is still with Michael Henry for compilation. Tom thought Brent and Kathleen might also have draft copies.

New business: Issues from attending neighbors-

-Red light camera at 13th, 14th, York and Josephine: The Boeckmans noted several accidents at those intersections, caused mainly by drivers running red lights, and Lisa researched the possibility of red-light cameras that detect when people run lights, take their photos and cause traffic tickets to be sent. There are already several in use throughout the city. Board members got copies of the research and suggested Lisa send an email to Jeanne Robb to see if these cameras are a possibility. If so, and if Jeanne wants more feedback, the Board could do a survey similar to the parking restrictions survey done recently.

Gerry Frank reported that the church at 11th and Fillmore is joining a Faith Buildings Alliance to work on "greening" houses of worship. They are also interested in helping the neighborhood get "greener," and will be starting with a survey and other activities to come.

Gerry also reported that there will be speakers series starting at the church, and the first three presentations will be on non Christian scriptures—Sept 15: Judaism; Oct 13: the Koran; and Nov 10: the Bahai faith.

Another neighbor reported that the previous evening (Tuesday evening/Wednesday morning), several cars were vandalized and items were stolen from them on Detroit, Milwaukee and St Paul, between 8th and 13th. No other information was available except that police said they were looking into several complaints.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wendy Moraskie, Board member