



Cedar Riverside Business Association

Abbreviated Meeting Minutes For 4/17/08

Safety Committee

One Meeting for area groups. First Tuesday of the month. Police may be added to the area.

Delegate Election Committee in May

Contact Dan Prozinski with any input.

Augsburg Campaign

The Campaign for Augsburg College is renovation and construction of a new Science Center. The facilities will enable Augsburg to widen service to Augsburg College's legacy of excellence in the sciences. The design has three components: a) the building, a 150,000 square foot facility on three levels which accommodates Augsburg's projected a) need for classrooms, laboratories, research and faculty office space; b) a linking circle, which connects the building to adjacent facilities while articulating a gateway to the neighborhood and city; and c) a dramatic, expanded central quadrangle for the college. These three components comprise a "signature" transformation of the campus plan, making it conducive to the intersections that characterize the Augsburg experience. Architects Holabird & Root have designed the facility based on a target cost of \$48 million. The building location and siting strategy draws on an updated campus master plan, developed by BWBR Architects to guide this project and a range of other 5-10 year campus priorities. Especially important in the plan are the traffic and parking implications of vacating 7th Street for the new building site, a process which requires input from the neighborhood and approval from the City of Minneapolis. This proposal was developed with broad participation from Augsburg faculty, staff and students.

U of M and the Central Corridor LRT Northern Alignment

A presentation on the Northern Alignment was given by Todd Iverson. The University of Minnesota's preferred LRT route is the Northern Alignment and a tunnel under Washington Avenue. The route would bring the light rail trains north of the new Gopher football stadium and through Dinkytown. Recognizing the schedule and financial constraints on the CCLRT proj-

ect, the University of Minnesota will fund a the Northern Alignment study and explore the design and planning of a Washington Avenue alignment with a pedestrian-only mall and no traffic with traffic diverted from Washington Avenue between the east end of the Washington Avenue Bridge and Walnut Street. Specific mitigations must be analyzed and a plan developed that identifies both reliable cost estimates and funding sources. The University belief is that the northern alignment actually saves money in the long run, because there are lower traffic mitigation costs compared to Washington Ave.

Negative considerations include:

- #9 Bridge is eligible as a historical structure and demolition impacts to bike/pedestrian trail
- Removal of Section 8 housing financed by HUD, impacts to remaining units
- 25' deep open trench required between 19th Ave. and Law School for LRT to cross Washington Ave. at-grade
- US Coast Guard jurisdiction as a navigable waterway

Sharon Johnson represents the West Bank on the Business Advisory Group for the Central Corridor. The Central Corridor Management Committee and the Metropolitan Council are making decisions about major aspects of this important project, including removing the Washington Ave tunnel. As per University interests the likely outcome of this decision was that a portion of Washington will be a transit and pedestrian mall, similar to Nicollet Ave in Downtown. This will have traffic consequences on the surrounding communities. The package includes more than \$20 million for mitigating adverse traffic effects that come from putting the train down Washington at grade. The University is now backing northern alignment. Delay and increasing costs are an issue. General discussion was divided. Sharon Johnson noted her concerns including, increased expense, a delay in the process, unknown mitigation issues and an extremely large "trench" that would physically divide the West Bank.

A northern alignment means a new set of environmental and other studies, that will delay the Central Corridor project a year. The delay would add at least \$40 million in cost due to rising concrete, steel and other materials costs.

The Metropolitan Council favors the route along Washington Ave. Among other reasons, it's the route that keeps the project on the schedule, according to Metropolitan Council chairman Peter Bell. The proposal does call for a transit mall, which means much of the car traffic would have to be diverted from the busy street. The cost estimate for diverting the traffic and finding parking for the cars is being developed. East River Rd. may be used to run some of the traffic. The cost of diverting traffic from Washington Ave. and redesigning dozens of nearby intersections would be born by the Met Council, the U, Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis.

CHANCE Program

CHANCE consists of students and staff members at the Humphrey Institute who wanted to connect the Institute with the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. Through collaboration among the University's West Bank schools, institutions, and Cedar-Riverside residents and business owners, West Bank CHANCE works to improve relationships and outreach opportunities between the University and local residents. West Bank Arts organizations are an asset. Future initiatives include: Web Sites to connect various groups, arts events, murals and signage. Merrie Benasutti, Coordinator of Community Partnerships (benas021@umn.edu). Also, CHANCE received a small grant to initiate a Small Business Fellows Program working with a small business

Next Meeting: Inspections in Cedar Riverside

CRBA to investigate inspections in a holistic fashion with a concerted effort. CRBA looks to Councilman Cam Gordon to be involved. Inspections should be standard and uniform for all businesses rather than on a call-by-call basis. A meeting will be set up with City officials, CRBA members and Cam Gordon to discuss this issue.

Meeting Adjourned

Meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at Augsburg College in the Oren Gateway Center room #100.

