



Cedar Riverside Business Association

Newsletter For February, 2007

Abbreviated Meeting Minutes 11/16/06

Parking Committee Update

1. The City Planning Commission approved the sale of about 3 extra parking spaces to Kwok – 1,173 square feet.
2. Validated parking is approved for Nomad World Pub.
MSP: Ask that CPED attach a cover letter to the parking survey stating that CRBA believes it is critical to the Cedar Riverside businesses that we do not lose any parking. Lot A usually fills up at night and the University students take up a significant number of spaces during the day.

Parking validation rates are available for Businesses on the West Bank. A business must apply to the program. Contact Rod Johnson for more information.

Safety Committee Update

Meetings 1st Tuesday at 7:00 in the evening to encourage more neighborhood participation at Brian Coyle Creation of a block club and block patrols. Currently there is a virtual block club run through the Minneapolis Police department.

NRP Update

Neighborhood relations are working on 2 projects that could involve CRBA- First, welcome packets for new residents (the CRBA brochure being a good addition). Secondly, the revival of Cedar Fest as a newly defined festival. There is seed money to hire a consultant and research if the event is feasible. Interested parties will be contacted for an exploratory meeting.

NRP Home (up to 4 units) improvement loan programs will be available with a deferred loan program and a revolving loan program. \$182,000.00 was approved by the WBCC board. Applications will be due in April or May '07. These loans are available to residents and apply to purchases made in Seward and Marcy-Holmes. A vendor for the loans has been chosen. An application lottery will be held with a deadline sometime in April. split between first time buyers and home improvements.

An additional \$10,000 is now available for future projects It was discussed as to spending that money on an economic development consultant to get "buy-in" from institutions and businesses already invested and involved in the neighborhood. Resident input is needed for fund disbursement. Meetings held the first Wednesday of the month. Information contact Deven Nelson, NRP Coordinator, West Bank Community Coalition, at 612.338.5282 x224 or nrp@westbankcc.org.

Councilman Cam Gordon

I have been appointed to the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee and the Joint City County Lead Task Force. The Central Corridor Coordinating Committee met and their Draft Environmental Impact Statement will come out within the next two months. There will be a public input period of 60 days after its release. I will actively solicit input from neighbors, especially West Bank residents.

A report on Somalis in the city was presented to the City Council- that conclude the need for more resources Ongoing concerns in the area include program development for Somali youth. violence and mental illness issues, education etc.

Questions were raised about the CDC Blue Goose refinancing. CRBA would like to have more information.

CRBA Newsletter

The CRBA newsletter become an electronic format. If a member does not have access to the internet they may request to receive a condensed version via standard mail. Please send your email address to: veti@veti.com to be added to the list.

University Impact Report

The University of Minnesota (U of M) football stadium bill was signed into law by the governor in May. Included in that legislation was a broad based report due to the governor and legislature on February 15, 2007 of the impact of the university on the surrounding community and the relationship of the community to the university. This report is a comprehensive report on the University's impact on the community and not limited to the University stadium. It addresses the direct and indirect impacts of the university on the surrounding community, addressing issues of public safety, transportation, and housing. A brief discussion of the report contents was held at the January CRBA meeting and a motion was presented and passed that:

The Cedar Riverside Business Association supports the initiatives put forth in the Neighborhood Task Report from the University of Minnesota, the City of Minneapolis, and the Stadium Advisory Group. A University Partnership District Alliance can better address the unique needs of the University area. The goal being to preserve and maintain a vital, safe and attractive community that will be a choice of place to live, learn and work.

LRT Updates

Funding for the Hiawatha Line lighting project

is still going on! Of the original monies needed there is still \$57,500 to be raised. This committee needs help and meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 8:30am at the Hard Times Cafe. Please contact Rosemary Knuteson for more information.

LRT Central Corridor Update- for information go to www.metcouncil.org. The Central Corridor Action Advisory committee has the opportunity to provide input for the location of west Bank LRT station. CRBA maintains station placement needs to be on Cedar (currently its placed as the University station between 19th and Cedar Ave). We need to start the dialog to get the issue raised that the acceptable station will be on Cedar Avenue.

The following motion was passed unanimously by the Cedar Riverside Business Association (CRBA) on January 18, 2007:

Because transit stations serve as a gateway to communities; and

Because transit is a catalyst for economic vitality; and

Because Cedar Avenue is the existing and long established transit, business, and pedestrian node; and

Because transit should benefit all constituents and not just the interests of one group; and

Because the needs of vulnerable populations must be considered; and

Because placement of the station site off from Cedar Avenue would result in the forfeiture of these public benefits and constitute a waste of the LRT investment;

Therefore be it resolved that the business owners of Cedar Riverside through the Cedar Riverside Business Association strongly advocate for the placement of the Central Corridor's West Bank Station on Washington Avenue at Cedar Avenue; this being the location that will benefit the greatest number of constituents, meet the needs of vulnerable populations such as seniors and be a catalyst for economic prosperity of Cedar Riverside businesses which in turn will benefit the metropolitan region.

Small Area Plan

Beth Elliot lead discussion groups on neighborhood perceptions Get input survey from business owners. Now in research phase quantitative and qualitative will present findings in March

Meeting Adjourned