



Cedar Riverside Business Association

Newsletter For May, 2007

Abbreviated Meeting Minutes 04/19/07

Approval of the April Minutes

Fringe Festival, Robin Gilette

The annual Fringe Festival will be held August 2nd through the 12th. Fringe is an annual celebration of theater, dance, improv, puppetry, kids' shows, visual art, musicals and much more. Over 11 days, 164 companies from throughout North America put on 876 performances at 23 Minneapolis venues in the largest non-juried performing arts festival in the United States. Nothing you'll see has been selected, reviewed or censored—it's the biggest chance anywhere for adventurous audiences to connect with adventurous artists. The Fringe festival originated on the West Bank. Participants purchase a Fringe button that allows access to performances. Business can promote various specials including the End of night "Fringe Nightcap series" which advertises locations for festival participants to meet, receive some sort of discount (\$1 off a beverage etc.) and talk about the performances. Added this year are Day Caps" for those that want to meet up during daylight hours. Information for brochure about the West Bank is due mid May. This festival should create a lot of traffic to the area- theaters include The Bedlam, Rarig and ... CRBA brochure will be available at events. Mark Johnson will be the CRBA contact/representative. Please see www.fringefestival.org for more information.

Parking Committee

There will be rate increases in the City lots during Vikings (\$7.00-\$10.00) and Twins (\$5.00) games.

Cedar Sign

The cost of fixing The Cedar Cultural Center Neon sign is estimated at \$30,000. Funding is still being sought. Considered "signage" Fix 'n Paint monies are not available.

Safety Committee

Block clubs are being developed. Meetings are held at the Brian Coyle center. Currently, there is a virtual block club run through the Minneapolis Police department. Community Impact Statements

are still a priority and be filed through the City's web site. When there is a problem in the area call 911 or the first precinct.

Tom sargent from the Minneapolis first precinct. The city offers a web program-called "Workplace". Workplace is a program that allows citizens to complete impact statements on line. It also allows a direct line of communication with the beat officers in your community as well as a place to communicate with each other.

He also suggested that the 1st Precinct city attorney attend a meeting to discuss trespassing issues. The two programs grouped together require a huge amount of time, (4 to 8 hours).

Election Committee

The election Committee is now being formed for the yearly elections at the May CRBA meeting. A slate is being developed. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. This is an opportunity to create a group with more delegate involvement. There is a unique opportunity to get involvement in the City's small area plan, the LRT, NRP, and area redevelopment.

LRT

Don't Let the LRT Pass Us By! The planned Central Corridor of the LRT is a huge regional project that will connect the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul and pass directly through our Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. The final choice for the location of the West Bank station could have a tremendous positive impact for all of us! Decisions are being made concerning station placement, station size etc. A West Bank station at Cedar Avenue would maximize the LRT investment and serve all the interests of the residents and businesses of our neighborhood as well as the University campus. Help influence this final decision FOR the neighborhood!

CRBA Newsletter

The CRBA newsletter has now become available only in 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 e-mail address to: veti@veti.com to be added to the list. Or

for a hard copy version sent to you write: CRBA, P.O. Box 141552, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Bedlam

Bedlam Theatre is a radical experimental community theater that has been a part of Minneapolis' West Bank neighborhood for 10 years. They recently moved into a new space just down the street from the old one at 514 1/2 on Cedar Ave in the old Baja Riverside building. Fine & Associates are allowing the Bedlam use the space until redevelopment of the property begins. The Bedlam asked for CRBA's support in applying for various licenses including a beer, wine and food, live music and outdoor performances.

A motion was presented and passed that: The Cedar Riverside Business Association offers this letter in support of the continuing success of Bedlam Theatre.

Since locating on Cedar Avenue in 1996, Bedlam Theatre has continued to grow not only in its artistic importance to the local and national arts community but as a venue for grassroots engagement of community members in the creation of that art.

With its new location at 1501 S. 6th Street, we support both the Theater and Beer & Wine Licensing, and recognize that both are important to Bedlam's ability to increase the neighborhoods importance as a destination location both for local and international experimental performing artists and Twin Cities' theater-goers.

In addition, we add our heartfelt thank's to the generous individuals, businesses and foundations who continue to provide the financial support for Bedlam's growth within our neighborhood, both for it's artistic programming, it's community engagement and it's partnerships with local institutions.

City Of Minneapolis FYI

Cedar Riverside and West Broadway have been designated areas of need within the "Great Streets" program- Intervene area provides extra points on competitive applications for City monies for facade improvements, low interest loans, Package small business

Here's a link to the Request for Council Action on the Great Streets program: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070427/docs/14_Great_Streets_RCA.pdf. Page six provides an explanation of what it means to be listed as an "Intervene" area. Page 23 lists the various programs the City has set up to assist businesses and business districts. Again, being listed as an "Intervene" district will give applications from Cedar Riverside for all of these programs extra points.

Some folks also expressed a desire to see the Sidewalk Café ordinance. Here's the page with information on the costs and the process, from the City's website: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/business-licensing/food/sidewalk_cafe.asp. The forms that one would need to fill out to establish a sidewalk café are here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/business-licensing/food/sidewalk_cafe_application.asp. I have copied the current café ordinance below.

Fix and Paint programs can be accessed through existing programs. CRBA would be well served to partner with an existing program to access funds.

Councilman Cam Gordon's Office

For more Council information see: <http://secondward.blogspot.com>. This is the public policy forum of Minneapolis Second Ward (Green) City Council Member Cam Gordon and his staff.

Spray Paint Ordinance. I supported Council Member Schiff's Spray Paint ordinance changes, which respond to the needs of hardware stores while better regulating the sale of spray paint, paint sticks and broad-tip markers to minors in our ongoing effort to fight graffiti. Materials must either be under continuous supervision or inaccessible to the public. A \$42,000 grant from the National Council on Prevention of Delinquency (a hardware retail industry group) will be used to conduct one-time checks on establishments selling spray paint, similar to our tobacco compliance program.

Windmill

Vertical access building mounted in non residential or residential above 4 stories. Cam holds meetings the first Tuesday of the month at the Hard Times Cafe.

May Elections

The yearly elections will be held at the May CRBA meeting. A slate will be developed please contact the executive committee if you'd like to be added to the ballot.

SAAG

Meeting Adjourned

CRBA Annual Membership - \$120.00 It's time to send in your membership dues to the Cedar Riverside Business Association! Membership dues are annual and provide a valuable return to you and your community. We recommend an annual contribution of \$120.00 but would appreciate and recognize whatever amount you can afford. Send your check made out to the Cedar-Riverside Business Association to our office at 1505 Washington Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454.

Thanks for your generous contributions to CRBA in 2006...

Associated Bank, Durable Images, Inc., Cedar Riverside Properties, Barbara Lyke, Hansel Hall / Crimiel Communications, Nomad World Pub, Love Power Ministries, Victoria Heller, Triple Rock, Peter Dodge/ Global Village, KFAI, West Bank CDC, University of Minnesota, Imperial Parking, Dudley Riggs/Inter Urban, Inc., LOTTSA Tax and Accounting Services, Inc., Theatre In The Round, Freewheel Bikes, Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Kilimanjaro Cafe, The Hub Bike Co-op and The Red Sea.

CRBA Meetings:

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at Augsburg College in the Century room of the Christensen building.