

Cooper-Grant Neighborhood Association

Minutes of the May 24th, 2010 meeting

Reported by Jonathan Latko

Attendance: 20

01. Meeting was called to order by the President, Bryon Yoder at 7:39 pm (2nd Floor of Walt Whitman Arts Center)

02. Previous meeting minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed; an update on the Treasurer's report provided. Sonia had question about language "Center City District." The minutes were approved with no objections, unanimous.

03. Treasurer's Report

- Shawn Burke reported a starting balance of \$1812.63. Voluntary contributions of \$74.00 were collected at this meeting. \$43.00 was paid out for refreshments; \$31.00 was deposited at PNC.

04. Communications – no formal communications from this meeting, informal Home Tour Mailings

OLD BUSINESS

05. CGNA – Cooper-Grant Commons:

- Phase 1 Discussion: Jonathan has been communicating with Domus. Domus is near the end of the process. If you still have issues contact Domus - ASAP as Domus is saying they are finished. An Energy Star audit report concerning lack of insulation issues in certain areas is being considered by McGrann.
- Phase 2 Discussion: CGNA's attempt to complete infill housing is being spurred by \$900k in clean up grants. Project becomes more feasible if we add some more infill housing where empty lots private and city owned exist.

06. Home Tour Update:

- About 100 people in total attended, with 75 or so who paid to attend event.
- Had support from several historic community groups from outside of Camden.
- Mayor Redd or a rep from her office was noticeably absent after confirmed commitment to attend.
- Going to start planning next year's event soon, if you have ideas pass them along.

NEW BUSINESS

07. Development Committee Report

- Phase II of Cooper-Grant Commons was discussed. CGNA is also working with different entities to push for more retail and housing in our area.

08. Point St Homes Flooding Issue:

- Ray presented issue to group – ongoing water issues with warehouse on 300 block of Delaware Ave. Ray would like to contact and to talk to the owner. Issues: rain water is over flowing the rain gutters which is spilling into the yards and then into the basements of the adjacent Point St. properties. May have always been an issue, but more of an issue now that more homeowners vs. renters exist in the homes with a vested interest. Ray has ideas for solutions to divert water to the street. After describing the issue and suggestions, Ray gave a handout of his summary.

09. Community Garden Update:

- Conversation about ownership of land, the thought is it is City owned.
- Garden has veggie and flowers areas. If anyone wants a plot please inquire with secretary.
- Tyler suggested we have a cook off of some sort utilizing our urban farmed goods from the garden to help build community.
- It was suggested in order to get access to water for garden suggestion to check with Rutgers for access to daycare water supply.

10. CGNA welcoming committee and neighborhood cleanups?

- Discussed ideas on how CGNA can assist in welcoming students to our neighborhood
- Ideas to combine with CGNA block party, Big Sams Funky Nation on waterfront Labor Day Sunday
- Patrick Wallace of Rutgers runs the return week activities on the soccer fields; he may be a good contact.
- Tout our local business to new students? Create some sort of business guide.
- Have more than 1 clean up date per year. Encourage neighbors to care for area near their homes.

11. Block Party Discussions

- Labor Day Sunday on Linden is the historical time, day and location, discussions on same day but move to Penn St. opening it up to Johnson Park?
- Discussions on additional clean up events during the summer and just before the event
- Try to fundraise, look for donations and cut costs as several hundred dollars deficits are ran each year. Maybe try a hybrid of shared costs among participants and donations.
- Cap off the night with County Health Fair and concert at Whitman Park.

12. Meeting with Mayor Redd

- Board is meeting Tuesday night to finalize questions to mayor
- If you have further concerns want them on agenda please let us know.
- Focusing on CGNA initiatives with Phase 2, crime, development and relationship with Rutgers

13. Add on items/ FYIs –

- AI has concerns about parking if Dranoff adds 90 new units in 2 years at Radio Lofts. Talk of a parking agreement where the neighborhood is owed 10 spots from the Riverline install. Need to dig up documentation on that.
- There is new quad/four wheeler legislation working its way through city council. As of now city cops are not permitted to chase them for concern of public safety.
- Frank turned in 6 burnt out street lights to DCCB website.
- 7th Street Bridge from Linden to Cooper will be paved by the County in the coming months
- County Jail has reduced inmates from 2,100 peak inmates to 1,200 or so. No immediate need to privatize or build a new jail, still plan on building a treatment facility.

ANNOUNCEMENTS –

14. If you have a neighbor not on the email listserv, please for send an email to secretary@coopergrant.org

15. If you have suggestions for info to add to the website please let us know.

16. Next CGNA meeting will be June 28th at the Victor Lofts conference room at 7pm.

17. June 13th Clementon Park Classic – Walk Run Race Fundraiser.

18. Fairview 5k walk run event

19. County Sunset Jazz Concerts on Tuesday nights start on June 29th Wiggins Park Free event

20. Walt Whitman Arts Center - The Walt Whitman Celebration Monday May 31st, 2010 12pm \$10

21. Taste of South Jersey at the Camden Aquarium June 14th

22. Riversharks Dollar Dog night – May 31st 4pm - Fireworks Friday June 4th

CLOSING

23. The next meeting will be held Monday, June 28th, 2010 @ 7:30pm at the Victor- conference room

24. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.