

COOPER GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting: **Monday**, July 26th, 2010
Victor Lofts, 1 Market St. Camden, NJ (Main entrance – ask security guard)
7:00 PM- Food and Drinks
7:30 PM- Meeting starts

- Agenda:
1. Call to Order and Introductions - 7:34pm start, Bryon Intro. 26 people to start.+5
 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting –Were distributed via email 1 week ago, Notes from Dana Redd’s meeting need to be added, Cooper-Grant party Sept 5th not June 5th, 12-12:30 setup – runs to 7:30pm, Dranoff properties must be added for future guests to be invited to CGNA meetings, Frank says, bottom of second page> every resident of cooper-grant closer to state prison site than most of north Camden, moved and seconded.
 3. Treasurer’s Report and Collection of Voluntary Contributions
Current account \$1812.67. Shawn suggested doing a yearly contract to lower price of website maintenance. Pizza from Slice of NY, no delivery person, \$35 for pizza, \$25 for block party permit to Frank was reimbursed for both on the spot.
- Shawn collected \$81 New total > \$1833.67
 4. Communications
 - a. Cooper’s Ferry follow-up info from last meeting presentation by Dorien Couch
Cooper St. to Market on 2nd and 3rd plans were provided to Bryon. Bryon has 10 questions from last meeting answered.
 1. *Will there be parking remediation on 2nd St.? Yes*
 2. *Why are you making 2nd St two ways? Improve traffic flow for Radio lofts*
 3. *How will this work with increased demand of parking for Radio Lofts?
Speak with Mike Asnes (Dranoff)*
 4. *Will the lights be single or double acorn?
Depends on width of St, determined by PSEG*
 5. *Can we provide CGNA with copy of plans? Yes*
 6. *Does project include pedestrian signage? – No, CFA still working on overall plan for waterfront.*
 7. *How will businesses fare with construction? This will be negotiated with contractors – hour and sidewalk ramps*
 8. *Will sidewalks that RPM improved in front of 301 Market be changed? No*
 9. *Will Contractor’s plans include accommodations for businesses? Yes.*
 10. *How much of the money is allotted for construction, How much for planning? Approx \$450k, \$20k for design*
 - Announcement - Meeting August 4th – public input wanted at 4pm for Cooper’s Ferry on block project mentioned above. \$450kbudget \$20k design.
 5. Old Business:
 - a. Point St. warehouse / water issues (west side)
Bryon gave brief: contacted property owner, in process of sending a follow up letter that Shawn drafted based on Ray’s summary of the issues discussed in previous meeting. Owner is currently out of town, so no response on follow up yet. Please email us if you have questions.
 - b. CGNA Boundaries

Bryon brief – discussion continues on current location of CGNA boundaries. Bryon has color map. Map shows the census tract changes in 1980, 2000, and 2010.

About 1,500 people in tract now, about 900 people in previous tracts. Jona' asked what the city defines Cooper-Grant as? Not really defined officially. Camconnect data collector defines us as the census tract> Cooper-Grant name was formed originally from Cooper school 3rd Pearl and Linden while the annex was Grant School. Cooper-Grant School became definer of our neighborhood name, Cooper-Grant neighborhood.

Frank – said keep as is. Political and Gov changes boundaries all the time. Logistics of getting more agendas out if we got to Haddon Ave. would be difficult. In Victor cannot go door to door but we can do elevator and mailroom postings.

Shawn makes point he is not just census tract mimicking, he is looking at neighborhood and its future growth, view of a larger marketing impact if we covered a larger area, as we grow. - Bryon – benefit to keep CGNA small? What can we control? As it grows, we should have an inclusive mind set to include new residents. Topic will stay on agenda for next month.

- c. Neighborhood Clean-up effort (August 2nd) and Sunset Jazz to follow. Jonathan suggests we meet at WWAC in back of center around 6pm Monday night. An email will be sent out for more details. Jonathan is trying to borrow tools for clean up. All we are asking neighbors to focus on is the street and tree pits in front of their homes. Afterward the group can walk down to Sunset Jazz event at Wiggins Park around 8pm.
- d. Block Party
The 15th annual CGNA block party will be on the 100 block of Penn and Johnson Park. Expect, DJ, games, grass games, face painting, taco Al pastor. Suggest that neighbors bring a side dish to share. BRYON has a flyer to send out with date and time. Bryon asked Shoprite and Pathmark for donations and they have given us gift cards. Budget about \$1300 est. Stephanie suggested to contact, McDonalds for juice and cookies and Rita's for water ice. We also ask for personal donations, can be given to a board member or can submit donation online via the website. Frank asked Danny Montez, DJ last 7-8 years to do it again at the same price as previous price for 7hours of DJ. Frank will cover cost of DJ, 100% with his donations raised, he will cover shortfall if one exists. Mark Burtz, a face painting and crafts for the kids: \$175. Have had neighborhood volunteers in the past do different activities if you have an art skill or ideas please share. TYLER asked about waterfront activities that weekend and also Rutgers? Next a discussion on length of block party with Jazz festival starting at 2pm. Frank said its onetime event, do it until sundown as has been done historically.

6. New Business

a. Development Committee Report

Shawn brief: committee meets 3rd Thursday of each month, need more volunteers if interested.

– 3rd and market complex >**Trust Building** summary, 35 units,(30

1bedroom (5) 2bedrooms units. Superintendent on site, no one under 18 permitted to live without person over 55. Can have an18+ if primary is over 55. RPM built and is managing property. 10 are reserved already.

-Phase II Cooper Commons 10 units 4 on Front 4 on Second 2, infill on Penn. Talked about adding empty lots, talking to current owners to increase cost feasibility of project.

-Supermarket, working with Rutgers because they want one for their students. Reinvestment fund from Philly has funds for supermarket. 1 set for South Camden, Where is next to be built? East Camden or Downtown?

-Market St. Shawn is talking with business owners, about 200-300 block sited for redevelopment along Market St. Mixed use homes and shops are suggested. High level talks nothing happening yet. Bryon gives out sign up list for Phase 2.

b. Rutgers Meeting Update

July 14th CGNA board met with Rutgers U. to discuss several items.

-Block Party – off campus students are invited to event, encouraging Rutgers to have a table set up for off campus information in order to create a better relationship with the neighborhood. Rutgers does not have a list of who is off campus but does send communications out to commuters. Rutgers feels most students who live near campus are grad students from law and MPA programs etc. They will distribute flyer to these programs. Rutgers will plan to clean Johnson Park after Red Bull event, Sept 4th.

Will also look to increase Police presence in park over the weekend, CGNA encourages officers to stop by to grab a bite. Rutgers will also tell dorm students that this is a neighborhood event.

-Trash cleanup: Dumpster on day care center, MLK Jr. center, not maintained and sits on sidewalk. Rutgers thinks they get place free of rent. It is up to day care to maintain the property. Jonathans asks for a contact. Tree limbs left on 2nd St. next to tennis courts is an issue, 2nd St dumpsters next to dorms will be landscaped within year after a problem is fixed with the dorm structure. Rutgers Coop extension is moving into WWAC, Robin Waddle, bringing a farmers market to the area.

-WWAC> what was plan? Plan to develop a classroom, remove stage, remove current seating arrangement, open building up to original open space, with movable seating, install platform for speaker like a large classroom setting, but not a stage. Scheduling would be handled by Rutgers, and building will remain open to community orgs just need to plan in advance. Charge to use? Only if need security or clean up or staff person needed on site at time of the event. Bryon expressed concerns with lack of access to other spaces at Rutgers, something voiced by WWAC, answer: need to plan in advance. Plan to start renovations ASAP.

c. **Walt Whitman Arts Center Update**

Phil Freeman – WWAC president visitor. Feels as though they would have to close the doors if Rutgers kicked WWAC out of the current space. Dec 2009 WWAC was told about plans to change space. Dr. Pritchett and Larry Gaines spoke with Phil. Phil had concerns going forward. Tried to collaborate and Phil created a new executive management team after some time of mismanagement. WWAC has plans to revitalize arts in Camden. Plan to establish center as premiere arts center in SJ. Check out their website for more updated information. www.waltwhitmancenter.org Many more things planned now than in past. There was no mention of the tear out of stage in Dec meeting Phil says. Only discussed the displacement of WWAC for 60 days during renovations. A 3yr agreement lease agreement expired in Dec 2009. Phil lead to believe nothing would change. 3 weeks ago found out about change in plans, no notification until March 2010 and

May 2010 letters from Rutgers which Phil says he did not receive until recently. Loss of space and stage will kill the center.

They hired Bruce, a lawyer from Princeton who will represent WWAC filing for an injunction to stop destruction on grounds of equitable estoppels. Dec 2009 – to now, WWAC has provided a schedule through 2011 to Rutgers. Everyone is copied on this at Rutgers. August coming, no lease was resigned, believe old lease still in play on a month to month basis. Tried to use Gordon Theater 1 time recently, but Rutgers does not allow org to post or actively PR the event until agreement is in place. As a result WWAC had to cancel spring concert because got contract back so late, 3 days before event. Another event at the Gordon Theater, events coordinator provided cost, was more than \$3k, WWAC cannot afford Gordon Theater over time, too expensive. Mike Sepanic agreed to meet after they went to the press, Courier Post. Is there a FORMAL Endorsement from CGNA?

Comments? - Frank states history: Funds from 76' bicentennial monies for rehab. City gave to Rutgers 1985 after they could not maintain. There is pamphlet that goes over the history.

Stephanie: feeling on if you can win space back? Lawyer said there is a strong case. It can be a win-win with seating and stage options.

Tyler – What else are they fixing? Phil, bathrooms, some office space, Coop is moving in ask mentioned above.

After press was there an outcry from the community? Phil: Not formally but numerous calls for support? Some are groups getting together to protest.

Did you reach out to Mayor's office? No feedback from mayor yet.

Rocky: what can we do? Phil: Talk to Phil on what to do, he has suggestions.

Frank: CGNA was founded in the WWAC, Jan 1982, we have had many meetings, in-fact most were in that building since inception.

Frank: motion made to support WWAC – what should we do? Immediate notification of press, we support a Formal position to support WWAC with its current use. Report to news, city council, mayor and Wendell to keep it as is, or update center bit make sure stage and seating remain - to renew lease as is with current space as is.....

Shawn, should CGNA be doing this, good relations with Rutgers, do not want to ruin it, - Comment - Org has to stand up make a choice, for or against?

Tyler: said we should support, get into a compromise of what space is..... stating against destruction of theater, encourage Rutgers to be more accommodating.

Draft a letter for executive board - and then send out to the neighborhood
Cooper Grant NA will take a position calling for Rutgers U to maintain WWAC use of space and maintain its function as a theater / performance space, including stage seating and office space as a theater. In addition update to make space ADA and LD compliant.

If approved convey to Rutgers, Press and all government. Rutgers top 3, Joe Roberts, Mayor, City Council, Freeholder Ian Leonard, State Senator Don Norcross.

Frank stated – Chris Seconded.

Vote 14 for

No - 0

Abstentions 3

7. Announcements

- a. Want neighborhood updates/announcements via email? Please email secretary@coopergrant.org with your address
- b. Next CGNA Meeting – Monday August 23rd 2010 VICTOR Lofts
- c. Visit from Green Faith, Quincey Xavier, Free Energy Audit for all Camden Residents! > 10 free light bulbs, blower door, new thermostat, Camden Homeowner or renters included. Filled up for July but taking appointment for August, evaluation Flyer passed around – audit@greenmarkets.com 866 620 4322 <http://audit.greenmarkets.com>
- d. Frank has paper, on independent info. Quarterly.
- e. Tyler, teams raiding trash on Point, Front, and Penn St. recyclables, contact local authorities if have concerns.
- f. Wednesday 7pm Slice of NY, 28th at 7pm. Rocky.

8. Adjournment after 10pm

The area served by CGNA is from Cooper Street (south side) to the Ben Franklin Bridge, and from Friends Avenue (extended) to Delaware Avenue.

For more information, call Bryon Yoder, President of CGNA: (610) 462-2909

*****This is our 29th year as an organization*****

Cannot attend CGNA Meeting?

Want updates, meeting minutes and agendas?

To get on the email list:

Email Jonathan Latko: secretary@coopergrant.org

www.coopergrant.org