

COOPER GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting: **Monday, January 24, 2011**
Victor Lofts, 1 Market St. Camden, NJ (Main entrance – ask security guard)
7:00 PM- Food and drinks, Friends Café
7:30 PM- Meeting starts

- Agenda:
1. Call to Order and Introductions –At 7:35pm meeting start. About 22 people attended meeting.
 2. Minutes of the previous meeting – Voted on and all approve.
 3. Treasurer's Report and Collection of Voluntary Contributions
\$1398.48 in treasury, yearly report will come out next month,
Collections: \$54 total food cost. \$40 dollars collected.
 4. Communications
 - a. Letter from CRA to Pennrose regarding Phase II redeveloper –
CRA owns the property for Phase II and has asked Pennrose to be the developer.
Pennrose did respond on Jan21st, wants to discuss agreement.
 - b. Others included below _
Rutgers' Larry Gaines letter on WWAC update, see old business.
 5. Old Business:
 - a. Walt Whitman Arts Center Update - Rutgers will remove theater and create a multipurpose room. Project will not start until after Spring WWAC celebration. Will be ready in the Fall 2011. WWAC will still be able to use space under the agreement.
 - b. CGNA Board of Trustees, 2nd call for nominations (5 positions) – At the last meeting there was a call for nominations. Board acts in case CGNA needs to be disbanded. More nominations called this evening: Frank calls on Al, he accepted. Shawn calls on Jonathan and Margaret, they accept. The nominations are Shawn, James, Sonia, Tara, Frank, Bryon, Al, Margaret, Jonathan. Will vote on 5 next meeting.
 6. New Business
 - a. Dorien Couch from Cooper's Ferry provides update on 2nd and 3rd Street streetscape improvements. The Safe Streets Transit Fund and UEZ Fund for economic development are the two primary funders. Design is complete and project went to bid. Consultant Engineering Services won the bid. NJTransit help bid project out and the bid had to go with the base bid of 2nd St. Several more infrastructure costs on 3rd St. project, there is not enough funding right now to complete. Currently NJT and NJDOT meeting to move on to next steps of 2nd St. project. In shore, brick, sewer, tree, lighting, furniture will be added. Original brick will stay at the Perks' house. One way changed to two ways? Still not known. Discussion ensues on why it should be one way or another. \$500k in the budget from beginning to end for 2nd St. project.
 - b. Recent crime issues:
Break-ins in neighborhood, doors were kicked in on 200 block of Penn New Years Eve. No information shared from Rutgers to neighborhood? Rutgers does respond to Cooper-Grant call as 1st responder, then investigation is turned over to City Police when they arrive. Confirmed by Larry Gaines. Waiting to hear from city on report of issues. Please call Rutgers and Camden Police for all issues.
Please report issues online to www.Camdendccb.org, good way to record with City.
 - c. Development Committee Report
Shawn briefs on Phase II. Modular Builders recommended from Pennrose are being reviewed. Recent quotes from builders are in-line with recent studies we have seen, this is important because of the gap in funding of \$1million. Thinking of a row of 5 and row of 6 very similar to Point and Penn St. Phase I project. Must wait for DEP to come back and sign off on lot before we start construction. Construction will only take 3-5 months. Geoff Forest from Dresner-Robbin said DEP may have a fast track with 3rd party auditors to move projects faster through the state process. We could be ready to build next spring. Site plan change, property lines change, everything will have to change and will add some time and cost. Expect to break ground Spring

2012.

- d. Home Tour 2011
2nd annual Cooper-Grant Home Tour. 8 properties participated last year in May. Looking for some different properties to add, need volunteers to help out. Looking for homes from last year and some new ones to change it up a little. Working on a list to mail letters out to new perspective homes. Tour times were 12-5pm last year, with The Victor Lofts hosting a social event afterward.

Additional Items

- e. Long awaited, Eye In the Sky will be awarded and an announcement will be coming. In brief, cameras will be used to monitor high problem areas along with sound shot triangulation to pinpoint an origin of a sound of a gunshot.
- f. Bill on Opportunities Scholarship Act, school vouchers, was written to focus on 9 cities, targeted only for low income and missed urban dwellers that are middle income. Asking for ways to help middle income children in chronically failing schools.
- g. Copper stolen again on 7th St and 10th St, Admiral Wilson Blvd. All the street lights are out. Thieves are cutting hot wires and blowing up transformer. Working with state to replace and weld the boxes together.
- h. 301 Market does not have building Superintendent. Few problems: a gentlemen fell and got hurt in his apartment, police could not get in, fire dept cut hole in wall to get man out, man had stroke, no one was there. This is urgent. RPM's Collins Ave facility is overwhelmed and the superintendent spends all his time there. RPM is stonewalling the residents. Commercial Office/space director for RPM is not familiar with area. Bryon said he will follow up with someone from 301 Market.
- i. WHYY, Morning Edition story on 20 somethings moving into Camden to make a change. A 3.5minutes broadcast airing tomorrow morning on WHYY.

7. Announcements

- a. Want neighborhood updates/announcements via email? Please email secretary@coopergrant.org with your name and address
- b. Next CGNA Meeting - Monday, Feb 28, 2011 VICTOR Lofts
- c. Meeting January 25th 6pm, North Camden Community Focus Group "Redesigning of the Corridors, Delaware to 7th St."
Focus Group to be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 4th and State St
- d. Feb 11th Camden City Library System closes, county will run Ferry Ave, and another downtown in conjunction with Rutgers.
- e. Tomorrow at 6pm Federal St Library Friends of 418 Library meeting to discuss closure and mission of the group.

8. Adjournment

**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 30th 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**