

COOPER GRANT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Meeting: **Monday, February 28, 2011 7:30pm**
Victor Lofts, 1 Market St. Camden, NJ (Main entrance – ask security guard)
7:00 PM- Food and drinks, Bain's Deli
7:30 PM- Meeting starts

- Agenda:
1. Call to Order and Introductions Bryon, 7:31pm About 30 people attended.
 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting January 2011, No comments, Moved and 2nd, all approve.
 3. Treasurer's Report Shawn Burke was not present.
 1. Collection of Voluntary Contributions: Erica Latko collected \$82 from those in attendance. \$40 was spent on food from Bain's Deli for the meeting. Only other expenditure was the website cost, working on a long-term contract to bring the price down.
 2. 2011 CGNA Budget Proposal: The treasurer will present this next month after board review.
 4. Communications
 - a. Meeting with Cooper's Ferry: Bryon gives a brief on the closure issues with 18 homes from Phase 1. CGNA presented a site punch list to Cooper's Ferry for review with CRA. CGNA also asked for assistance from Cooper's Ferry with site and street infrastructure for Phase II. Cooper's Ferry will look into coordination and funding possibilities.
 - b. Others included below
 5. Old Business:
 - a) Recent Crime: Report on Meeting w/ Rutgers regarding break-ins/drug activity. CGNA asked Rutgers how can neighborhood work with Rutgers in keeping the neighborhood safe? There are guards on duty 6am to midnight with Rutgers Security. Report crimes to Rutgers and City of Camden Police. Rutgers will act as 1st responders. Andrew Adams said he met with the Chancellor recently and said Rutgers will be patrolling portions of Market St. from near 5th at Patco to 3rd St. for instance.
 - b) 301 Market Resident Concerns: Bryon spoke to Kevin Cavanaugh who said a full-time manager is now on site. Also cameras are now being used to assist in dealing with issues. Residents have concerns that there are convicted felons living in the building. Also state that the manager is not living there yet.
 - c) Election of CGNA Board of Trustees - Vote for (5) Positions
Voting process is explained by Bryon. Margaret Parker's name is removed from the ballot at her request. Ballots are handed out and then collected by Jonathan Latko. Erica Latko and Adrian Diaz tally the votes. Top five are on the Board of Trustees.
Tally of Votes:
Sonia Rivera-Perez 17
Jonathan Latko 16
Al Parker 15
Frank Fulbrook 15
Bryon Yoder 14
Shawn Burke 9
Tara Nurin 6
James Reilly 5
 6. New Business
 - a. Special Guests:
Dorien Couch, Cooper's Ferry (Update on 2nd & 3rd St. Improvements) Looking for comments on 2nd and 3rd Market to Cooper Streetscape project.
Part of the Interior Gateway Project which started in 2002. Copper's Ferry is only doing 2nd St. because of lack of funds to do 3rd St. right now. Had a meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the directional change of 2nd St. DOT has a public notice period. Hold meetings, pass out flyers, etc. March 11th is the start of 30 day review period. Decision will be made after that to change that portion of 2nd St. two-way or

not. Comments: Expected benefit? Similar to 3rd St. Market to Cooper so traffic can access street from Cooper and Market. Direct reason to change? Safe Streets-transit grant so it was part of the application idea. Safety and access to the street can allow more traffic for business to and from the Riverline. The sewer connections on 3rd push the cost too high, well over the \$500k budget. Two directions will ease the navigation to and from the Radio Lofts and give access from Cooper St. If public response says no to two-way the funding is still there from Safe Streets Grant. Streetscape will still happen regardless of direction change.

Traffic studies were done by several groups.

Chris Perks brings to light a September 2006 ordinance change made by the city. Chris pulls paperwork saying two-way street designation was already done. Code number at top of paper. It was not changed on site because Dranoff property did not open yet.

- b. Angel Orsorio, Community Justice Director County Prosecutors' Office
- Passes out some brochures and explains her job is to find out mechanisms and ideas on how to improve public safety. She facilitates the District Community Collaborative Board. DCCB idea based on a study that said police must work with the community. There are 4 districts in Camden. We are in District 1. Residents, Business, Schools, Housing, Police, State, County, City Gov. reps all collaborate to look at what is going on in the city. She has broken down barriers and connected to what each can do. Everyone is responsible. An example project is "Light up the City project." The Rutgers project is doing an assessment on lighting. Lighting is # 1 deterrent of crime. Assessments gather information looking for areas that need additional lighting or to fix lighting. **Please keep your porch lights on.** Studies show it deters crime! DCCB is looking for grants to help people get lights for porches. The 4 boards meet monthly with only 2 meetings per year are open to the public. Website is a wealth of knowledge. It is a 3rd party form of government. Sub-committees exist and we encourage neighbors to get involved. Contact DCCB at the website submission form. www.CamdenDCCB.org Agencies get emails directly. Police get it instantly. The city would like it to be used more. Everything is mapped and emailed creating graphics of problem areas. Studies are matching activity with problems in environment. The progress is incremental at times but they do make changes. Frank Fulbrook, Shawn Burke and Andrew Adams are all from our neighborhood and are on DCCB1 board. Another example is the ATV campaign of last year. City has an ordinance that says ATVs cannot operate in the city limits. Starting to enforce the law was the 1st step. Campaign asked people to report ATVs. Resulted in confiscation of 150 ATVs last year. Starting up again this spring. It's the broken windows theory with quality of life. The \$200 fine was not a deterrent. Angel Fuentes is proposing to raise fines to \$2k and put more responsibility on the seller. Lobbying for stiffer penalties for all parties.
- Questions: Why are the 7th St. bridge lights out? It is because of stolen copper lines. All of Camden City has this issue.
- Angel also runs the curfew program for the city. 60% of juvenile problems are career criminals if have a juvenile record. This program is preventive medicine. Abandoned Cars? Police have a tow truck for abandoned cars left on streets. For lighting you can contact PSEG directly. 25% of Market St. lights were out. Lights are all on as of last night after the work of Bill Hoag. PSEG is looking to secure the bottom doors of the lights because copper is being stolen from the door. Frank said squirrels are chewing the plastic photo sensors causing the light to stay on during the day.
- County Prosecutor's Office is cutting Angel's position** under the current budget proposal. Franks says she is the glue that holds the DCCB together. Felix Mollier said Freeholders are working on something after the DCCB voiced their feelings at last week's Freeholders meeting. March 31st is the layoff date.
- A motion to have CGNA author a letter of support for Community Justice Director and with Angel Orsorio in the position, to said parties. Felix will provide information on to whom? All approve to letter of support unanimously by 30 people at a regular schedule monthly CGNA meeting. Bryon Yoder will compose the letter.

- c. Development Committee Report: Shawn called in via speaker phone. For Phase II the CRA and Pennrose met. Pennrose and Cooper-Grant will finalize the partnership similar to Phase 1. CRA will pay Dresner-Robbin to create remediation plan. We are on the agenda for Wednesday's CRA meeting to approve payment. The meeting is this Wednesday 3/2 at 5:30pm in city council chambers. Could be breaking ground in 9 months. Looking to increase from 10 units as it currently stands, to a row of six 2nd St and a row of five on Front St. and the two on Penn St. Researching modular housing for a savings of 15-20% vs. stick built on site.
- d. CGNA Boundaries Discussion: Bryon gives a brief. Last motion was defeated. Cooper's Ferry said there is an opportunity to be involved in a downtown plan to qualify for tax credits if we were more inclusive of residential areas. Funds come from corporate donations where companies would give money to projects in our area. Example: KROC Center received an \$800k grant from American Water. There must be a corporation partnering with a neighborhood. CGNA could partner with CoopersFerry/GCP. We would need to expand boundaries to say we are a substantial area in the redevelopment plan. Last redevelopment plan was from 2004 for our area. We may need a new plan. Someone asked if we need a committee to discuss pros and cons? Bryon suggests sending an email to CGNA if interested in being on a committee for this.
- e. Home Tour 2011- We are looking at May 21st/May 22nd weekend as a potential. Last year, people opened their homes and the Victor hosted a post-tour reception. About 100 people came out last year.
- f. Addition: James Reilly – lives on 2nd St across from Rutgers Tennis Courts. He is a CEO, broker of record, real-estate business Reilly Property Group. Licensed in PA and NJ. Specializes in investment properties, has 3 homes and 1 lot on Point St. He admits Rutgers students have trash issues. Runs the 08102 Grid Iron Classic, 2 hand touch charity football tourney Thanksgiving weekend. Everyone donates cans - 4 years going, over 700 cans collected this past year. He is HUD certified on the Urban Enterprise Zone board. Asking CGNA to draft a letter for support for his business at 414 North 2nd St., The Presidential Suite.
Discussion: Does CGNA support certain businesses over others? Does it open up can of worms? Bryon says we generally do not support businesses unsolicited. If a neighbor asks, we can support. Can we if someone asks? Will everyone want this support now? Questions about why is he asking for support?
Confusion on rules for a house to be a residential and business property. Reilly says his property is a 1-story shed in the backyard. Then explains some back story, saying a member of CGNA board filed a complaint against RPG. Shawn Burke's complaint was if you do real estate at your house you must follow certain rules. It is up to the Real Estate Commission to decide what is legal. It is decided to table the dialogue until we get the original complaint letter. Reilly said he could provide documentation on any questions. He is asking for Shawn Burke to rescind his complaint. CGNA board only has issue if the letter was written on behalf of the board without board approval.
Motion to table.

7. Announcements

- a. Want neighborhood updates/announcements via email? Please email secretary@coopergrant.org with your name and address
- b. LEAP Academy Benefit, March 5th
- c. Hopeworks'N Camden Fundraiser April 3rd 1-4pm Pinnsetters in Pennsauken
- d. North Camden Corridors Charrette March 1st 6pm at Respond 9th and Linden
- e. Wells Fargo Press Conference North Camden Prison Site, March 2nd 1pm
- f. Next CGNA Meeting - Monday, March 28, 2011 VICTOR Lofts Not in this room, in Caruso room
- g. Library Closed on Federal, County Library branch on Camden Rutgers Campus. Ferry Ave Branch is open.

8. Adjournment 9:50pm.

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