

Meeting: Monday, January 25th, 2021 7:00 PM

– Virtual Meeting Via Google Hangouts : (US) [+1 484-841-5601](tel:+14848415601) (PIN: 636837132) <http://meet.google.com/buf-hnmd-irg>

- 15 Attending

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:04 PM

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (November) by Bryon, seconded by Jonathan. Motion carried by members present.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. **2020 Year End report/ 2021 Budget/ Tax Filing** – 2021 taxes were filed with the IRS by Bryon. Bryon will be ordering the annual financial compilation. Bryon presented the anticipated budget for 2021, which will be attached to the meeting minutes. Through our agreement with M&M, there is a minimum of \$6,000 on the contract to be paid to CGNA– we only got half that guarantee in 2020 (received \$3,000). Bryon made adjustments for in person meeting donations and possible events in the fall, based on past experiences/budgets. The thirteen-month COD just renewed. Jonathan suggested adding a minimum of \$600.00 with the community solar project under the anticipated budget.
- b. The beginning balance for the month of January was \$6,375.04. There were three expenditures for the month: one for the annual NJ report filing for \$78.00, one payment to Montrell Saunders of \$1250.00 for his work with the Bread and Roses grant, and a \$3.50 fee for filing the 1099 tax form. There was one deposit of \$300.00 from our partnership with the community solar project. Ending balance is \$5,343.54.
- c. Motion to approve the proposed 2021 CGNA budget and treasurer's report as presented by Bryon (as written) by Adrian, seconded by Mark Smith. Motion carried by members present.

4. Neighborhood Safety and Security

- a. Any recent issues? You must call 911 and get a report number for an incident be officially reported. Sgt. Levy is not in this meeting. Anyone have any issues to report? Statistically the city seems to be better this past year as far as crime statistics. Just reminding neighbors and community members to be diligent and report any issues through 911 or the tipline. If there is a crime in progress, call 911. You must file an official report in order to help get police resources (patrols) in the area.
- b. Emergency Call 911 or 24hr Tipline: 856-757-7042 or STOPit Online Application (Code: CAMDENNJ)

5. Old Business

- a. **Infrastructure/Roadway Projects: Kathy Cullen, CFP (Cooper /Market/Federal/7th St/ North Camden)** – Kathy Cullen presenting. She can be reached at kcullen@coopersferry.com
 - i. **Market/Federal Street:** They have their concept development project ongoing for the Market and Federal Street redesign. They had their last public meeting for the project. The meeting was recorded, to view click here: https://zoom.us/rec/share/zrJXEuEXC7A3hPTKB56Hs4I9yic3XiZTcoYRsmppsRgOnJ20Ap8kOLEkIqZmqv_P.S23OhjAVdMpL1X6l Community members should take the survey if they haven't already (see link below). Kathy will be talking to businesses on Market Street about this project as well. As of right now, alternative six is in the lead as far as votes go. This is very important for community input. The last survey was about 70% commuters and we need more residential input. We don't necessary need another highway on Market Street since MLK is a highway already. The neighbor may benefit from a business corridor or something with more local transportation with bike lanes and such.
For more info: https://www.dropbox.com/s/axkwsgb6ah0scxn/federal-market_stakeholder%20pic%20mtg_v01.1.pdf?dl=0
Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FederalAndMarketPIC>
 - ii. **North Camden Tiger Grant Project.** North Camden is wrapping up, she believes they finished the cobblestone on Elm Street on Friday, which was hand laid. Starts at the 2nd/Elm and goes up to 3rd Street. They are finishing their punch list soon. Really appreciate all the patience of the neighborhood through this project. With the traffic

circle, the striping has not be completed yet – which will help with the pedestrian crossing. She believes the striping and signing will be done this week.

- iii **7th Street Projects:** There are two projects on 7th Street. One project is on 7th Street from Linden to Elm Street. There have been several utility issues that needs to be addressed, which is why the project has been so delayed. The second project is a Camden County project development study from Elm Street to Erie Street. There had a public meeting in November for this and worked with Camden Lutheran Housing. They did some surveying and got 75 responses. The residents on 7th Street voted primarily for a one-way option between State Street and Erie Street.
 - iv **Cooper Street Project:** The Cooper Street project is taking a little bit longer to complete. They have some striping and signing to do. That intersection on 6th Street should be opening any minute now; had a lot of utility delays with PSEG.
 - i ADA on 5th/Cooper? This is temporary- punch list item. The shoulder from 5th street to Haddon will be a blank shoulder. They will be restriping it to discourage people from parking and dropping off when school is in session.
 - ii There are motion sensors on the intersection at 5th Street. They could not do anything with the traffic signals from 4th Street towards the river due to the RiverLine signals. There are sensors on the intersections east of 4th Street on Cooper Street. Front and Cooper seems to remain blinking for an extended period of time. Long term, is there a plan for this signal? Kathy says not that she's aware of since it's separate from the Tiger project. Jonathan asked Ms. Puccio from EMR if they requested it? Not that she's aware of.
 - v Pearl and N. 2nd Street – a lot of the striping was eliminated when the street was repaved? Resident wants to know if the striping will be replaced? Some of the concrete got ripped out and was replaced with asphalt? Kathy said this could be a punch list item. These items will be sent to Kathy for punch list items. Is Birch Street being touched? No.
 - vi There are also some potholes in front of the courthouse on Cooper Street. Is this a city project? \$3.4 Million was estimated for the project; however the underground infrastructure created issues with design and construction. Since the project was designed 4 years ago, the roads have deteriorated since then. Kathy said they are looking into more funding to address additional issues on Cooper Street.
 - vii Resident mentioned issues with striping on 2nd Street with the one way. No one should be coming southbound down 2nd Street. It may be confusing with the previous construction work that was done in the area. For a while 2nd and Elm was closed. Kathy will double check on that. Resident also mentioned that people are driving the wrong way into the new circles; especially since there doesn't seem to be a lot of enforcement in that area. She is concerned this will be a long term safety issue. Kathy will look to address it after the new striping and signage is put in place.
 - viii Kathy mentioned that she is concerned about trucks going down 2nd Street and have reached out to the businesses on Erie Street. Some of the trucks have gotten stuck in the area after the new construction. They come off on Cooper onto Second Street since there are not many stop signs on 2nd street. Jonathan is trying to see if we can get more stop signs on 2nd Street to deter people from speeding up 2nd Street.
 - ix **Community Solar Project (Updated CGNA Contract)** – This looks at the new law in NJ that says community solar projects can be build on landfills, brown fields, etc. This provides more opportunity for people to get solar credits if they rent or if they don't have the room/financial resources to get solar panels. The solar company looks at your previous utility bills and then they give you a discount on your utility bill since the company bills you 90% of what your bill is. If you opt in through our partnership website (www.neighborhoodsun.solar/cgna), you get a \$100 gift card and CGNA also gets \$100 credit. Low-income housing gets a more significant savings (20% off your utility bill). We've had multiple people from the neighborhood sign up. The project should be online in March. They are getting close to filling up this project. We are one of the first nonprofits to partner with this project. They are looking into additional sites, some in Pennsauken and Moorestown, to put up solar panels on rooftop space. Camden is currently not on the list for potential sites. They asked us (CGNA) to continue marketing and promoting their community solar project. This is all part of NJ BPU. Motion to sign these additional agreements to continue our relationship with Community Solar and expand our ability to get solar to other community members by Bryon, seconded by Ben. Motion carried by members present.
- b. **Campbell's/Rutgers Field Update** – Jonathan has been in communication with Mr. Nash and former mayor Dana Redd about this project. The is a community benefits agreement between Rutgers joint board and county (city not really involved). They are moving forward with the field construction. This space will be owned by the county. They said they are working through this project but they have not moved on any of our questions/issues about infrastructure (crosswalks, etc.) at this time due to budget issues. They promise to come present an update to the community in a month or so.

- i Resident is concerned that after two years of us expressing concerns, they only acknowledged our concerns and didn't make any changes with the plans that were originally presented by them. Residents are concerned that they are moving forward on a public project without any public input being included. Felisha recommended reaching out to the stakeholders and then following up with her. Jonathan is frustrated because he keeps presenting our lists of concerns and every time he speaks with someone involved in the project, he seems to get the runaround. It seems like they are only interested in addressing our concerns AFTER the project is built which is not productive for something that is a public, community project. It doesn't make sense. We haven't received a community benefits agreement for the project either. It seems like they are pushing this project to get the fields build because Rutgers needs the fields. While we know that COVID has hindered a lot of plans and timelines but it's frustrating to keep getting excuses.
 - ii It seems like the agreement with the current Rutgers Field has ended and therefore we're hoping to work with the city to get a community agreement to use the open fields since they did get GreenAcres funding in that project.
- c. CGNA Board (Vice Chairperson Vacant) – Still looking for a Vice President!

6. New Business

- a. **City Councilperson Felisha Reyes-Morton** – Spoke about the neighborhood plans ,specifically the Cramer Hill plan and the North Camden plan. Cooper Grant neighborhood with working with Coopers Ferry to try to make sure this additional neighborhood plan is thorough. Felisha wants to present all three plans together so that people are more aware of the neighborhoods and make sure efforts are synced and efforts are not duplicated, even those each plan is for different neighborhoods. It will also along long-term sustainability for the plans, especially once they come up for renewal. We updated our Cooper Grant neighborhood plan, we are one of the few plans that hasn't been accepted by the state. Still waiting to hear back from the state about the grant to pay for the updated plan expense. Cooper Grant is a historical neighborhood and Felisha has been working with the Camden Historical Society to build up the historical components within North Camden and Cooper Grant. She wants to turn the historical building in North Camden into a museum focused on the Revolutionary War. Felisha is looking for any help on this project.
- i Asked about the parking updates – Felisha is hoping to update the parking zones within the next 6 months. They have Google Maps with the updates zones and the next steps will be getting community input now that some of the Tiger Grant construction projects are wrapping up. She wants to make sure all the neighborhood blocks are included.
 - ii Cramer Hill Waterfront Park project is going well so far. She is looking to put a conservation committee together to organize funding and recreational opportunities at the site. Nobody owns the park so Felisha wants all the residents to be able to enjoy. They are putting in an amphitheater in there as well for public use. She wants to bring in different lending programs (kayaks, bikes, etc.)
 - iii Resident asked about any information about vaccination sites? Felisha was on the phone with the mayor and Director Capelli's office about this issue. She also acknowledged that there's been difficulty with signing senior citizens up to get these vaccination appointments due to technology limitations.
 1. Jonathan says you can call CamCare **(856)583-2400** to get an appointment. Felisha registered through the state website. Unfortunately at this point, there is not a strategic plan within this county or any of the counties in this state to organize this vaccination rollout with all the appointments and vaccination sites. There will be more vaccination sites opening up in the city in the future, possible the Kroc Center and one of the churches. Felisha recommends going through the state instead of waiting on the city's plan for vaccinations. Cooper Hospital has a program with the county but the priority is still vaccinating health care workers and first responders.
 2. Resident mentioned checking <https://rowanmedicine.com/vaccine/registration.html> for new appointments between 830-0930am. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee at this point to get an appointment but he recommends to check every morning.
- b. **EMR: Katherine Puccio – Deputy general counsel for EMR.** Their new headquarters are at the old school board building at Front and Cooper Street. The office is closed currently and remains closed to everyone except those who can't work from home. They have no immediate plans to reopen the building fully due to the NJ Governor's guidelines with COVID-19. The construction on the parking lot slowed significantly for permit reasons. So they shifted their focus on some other projects. They are anticipating that they will be moving forward with the parking lot development in the spring, along with exterior signage. She mentioned that most of the employees did not know that Penn Street is a one way because there isn't enough signage since that area has not been used as a parking lot before. There are plans for the parking lot to exit on Front Street, closer to the building. She also asked that if anyone sees trucks on Ferry Street to let her know, especially since they've sent multiple notices to truck companies to use the alternative route. The truck traffic has decreased tremendously so those notices seem to help. She mentioned that they are always looking for qualified

employees to join the company. All of the positions are posted on INDEED.COM if anyone is interested. You can also send resumes to Ms. Puccio directly through Jonathan (president@coopergrant.org).

- i Resident is still concerned that this parking lot project isn't a priority, even with COVID delays. The building was removed but the space isn't a functioning parking lot yet employees are still parking there. Resident is concerned that there was lingering asbestos in the gravel, which Ms. Puccio said has been remediated.
 - ii Resident asked about plans for the café on the bottom floor? Ms. Puccio says that this is still part of the vision for the building. They also have a community meeting space that they will open once they are able to have public meetings.
- c. **Arts Committee Report (Vacant Chair Position)** – We do not have an active Arts Committee chairperson. Jonathan is working with the IDEA center to see if they will take the next segment at the art gallery in the Pierre Building.
- d. **Planning Committee (Grants: Bread & Roses, NRTC, Cooper Foundation)**
- i **Bread and Roses grant** – As of March 2021, we are one year into this grant. The focus of this grant is access to public spaces. Looking at Cooper Grant area, specifically Johnson Park, the library, 67 Penn Street, and the soccer fields. Montrell is working on his report with all the research he's gathered in relation to community access. He will share once its completed.
 - ii **NRTC** – We are waiting for feedback from the state about funding to cover the money that we used to pay Interface to update the neighborhood plan.
 - iii **Cooper Foundation** – This project is still on hold. We were intending to use the grant towards a project on 320 N. 2nd Street lot. Able to delay this project due to COVID-19.
 - iv **Book Ark project** – We received a donated "Book Ark" through Camden County Pop Up Library, which is essentially going to be a free library for the community. We also received five boxes of donated books from the Camden County Pop Up Library organization. Marcelle is working on painting the book arm and Jonathan M. is going to help Marcelle weather-proof the cabinet door and place metal feet on the bottom to reinforce the structure bottom. Our goal is to place it in the CGNA community garden. Marcelle is looking to have the project complete and installed by the end of January or mid-February of this year.
- e. **Development Committee Report**
- i. **ABC Barrel Lot** – No updates on this. Finances and COVID seem to have destroyed this project. Market is strong right now so Jonathan is going to reach back out to the CRA to see if they have future plans for this lot; hopefully something residential.
 - ii. **M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building** – We are due the annual report. We basically sell tax credits on their behalf. We need to get them some information about tax filing.
 - iii. **Waterfront Development** – Hotel opened in December, which is the first hotel in the city in the past 50 years. They have a restaurant and a bar. Jonathan did reach out to American Water about the street lamps on the new infrastructure on the waterfront. Jonathan is asking anyone who's got time to check the numbers on the bottom of the street lamps that are out in Cooper Grant neighborhood so Jonathan can forward them to PSEG to get them fixed.
 - iv. **Covanta/County Microgrid Project** - Not really sure what's happening with this. There are still different groups meeting and some CBAs are being discussed. Seems like the project is still moving. Jonathan isn't aware of any public meetings coming up with this project.
 - v. Resident mentioned a new coffee shop opened up on Market Street for anyone interested.
 - vi. There is a new mobile supermarket that will be operating in the area of Galindez Court in North Camden, which will be weekly on Thursdays starting February 4th from 1:00-3:30 PM. More information is on Virtua's Farmer's Market webpage [Eat Well - a fresh approach \(virtua.org\)](http://Eat Well - a fresh approach (virtua.org)).

7. Announcements

- a. Virtua Farmer's Market Tuesdays: 12-1:30pm 520 Market St (Roosevelt Park)
- b. Rutgers-Camden Community Fields are scheduled to be open to the public on Sundays from 10AM-4PM.
- d. 2021 Zone 1 Parking Passes are available www.camdenparking.net
- e. COVID Vaccine Appointments call CamCare **(856)583-2400**
- f. Next CGNA Meeting will be held **Monday, February 22nd 2021** at 7:00 PM (online)

8. **Adjournment - 8:43 PM.** Motion to close the meeting by Sonia, seconded by Jonathan L. Motion carried by members presents.

The area served by CGNA: "Cooper-Grant" is defined as the area contained within the following boundaries: Northern Boundary – the Ben Franklin Bridge; East - Friends Avenue (extended) south to Cooper Street, extending east to the West side of Fourth Street; South - the south side of Market Street; Western Boundary: the Delaware River.

For more information, e-mail CGNA Board at info@coopergrant.org

*****This is our 39th year as an organization*** Cannot attend the CGNA Meeting?**

**Want updates, meeting minutes and agendas? Email: secretary@coopergrant.org & like our Facebook page: @coopergrantneighbors
www.coopergrant.org**