

Meeting: **Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 7:00 PM – 9 Attending**  
– Virtual Meeting > Join <https://meet.google.com/yvj-egqr-zdf> (US) +1 409-698-0145 PIN: 387292368#

Agenda:

**1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:03 PM**

*\*It should be noted that the meeting is lead by CGNA Treasurer Bryon Yoder tonight, as CGNA President is unavailable.*

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting –** Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Sonia, seconded by Bryon.  
Motion approved by members present (no abstentions).

**3. Treasurer's Report**

- a. The beginning balance for the month of June was \$3,931.54. There were two expenditures this month – one for the NJ annual report filing fee of \$33.00 and the other for payment of our annual insurance for CGNA Board/Officers for \$1,111.89, which leaves an ending balance of \$2,786.65.
- b. We did receive a check from Neighborhood Solar of \$500.00 for our participation in the program, which Bryon will be deposited shortly.
- c. Any questions regarding the treasurer's report? [None]
- d. We are required to do an annual compilation – Jonathan L. found an accountant who can do this for us but we have not received a quote yet. We will do that annual compilation as soon as we're able.

**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 and Ofc. Sanchez from Camden County Police Department are present on the call.
  - i. A few kids threw a brick through a car window in broad daylight and then rode off. CGNA is asking for more officers in the neighborhood, specifically officers on bikes would be appreciated as well as walking around the community more frequently. We need more officers in the neighborhood. Residents feel that just flyer the cars is not cutting it. Sgt. Levy mentioned that there were a couple of his officers both on foot and bike patrol not too long ago. Jonathan L. and Sgt. Levy have a meeting with the Lieutenant on July 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the needs of the community. Regarding the incident with the brick - Sgt. Levy also mentioned that the owner of the crime/victim of the crime needs to be the one to report the crime in order to get enough information to have an investigation. When he initially looked in their system, he couldn't find a complainant for the brick incident. Sgt. reiterates that neighbors should always report minor and major incidents by calling 911.
  - ii. Sgt. also mentioned that they are in the process of replacing cameras within the neighborhood as the budget allows. This process is out of their hands. The camera on the corner of Front and Penn is working and used as needed. The one on Cooper Street is also operational. They are being ordered by the county. Currently, most of the time, they are usually pointed towards Cooper Street. The new cameras do provide a 360 view 24/7 and will be recording at all times.
    1. Resident asked if the cameras are being funded by a federal grant or by the county budget? Sgt. Levy is not sure. He said he knows that the county did order several hundred cameras to replace the older ones in the city. Once they do arrive, their department would handle the logistics of making sure the cameras are replaced.
    2. Councilwoman Reyes-Morton – She believes that the funding from the cameras is coming from the more recent public safety initiatives and that they are advocating for more cameras within the city.
- b. Emergency Call 911 or 24hr Tipline: 856-757-7042 or STOPit Online Application (Code: CAMDENNJ)

**2. Old Business**

- a. **Infrastructure/Roadway Projects (Cooper /Market/Federal/7<sup>th</sup> St/ North Camden)** – Kathy Cullen sent an e-mail with updated information. In reference to the Camden County Market/Federal Streets project, they received great feedback from the follow-up survey and reviewed the comments and suggestions. In order to meet the needs of as many stakeholders as possible with the project, we developed a hybrid of the two most popular alternatives: Alternative 5 (both roads become two-way) and Alternative 6 (both roads remain one-way, which is Alternative 7. Alternative 7 leaves Market Street one-way westbound as it is today. It adds a buffered bike lane and maintains existing parking on both sides of the street. (Maintenance of parking was a very high priority for most respondents). In Alt. 7., Federal Street becomes two-way the entire length, with one lane westbound and two lanes eastbound. Parking is maintained on the north side of Federal Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Haddon Ave. A bike lane will be installed on Federal Street between Delaware Ave. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (wide roadway can accommodate lane) but at 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, where the road narrows, bikers will be directed south to the bike lanes on MLK Blvd. Alternative 7 meets the needs of as many stakeholders as possible and provides an improved street grid, pedestrian amenities, bike facilities, parking and good level of service. Camden County and the engineering consultant will begin the design and engineering phase later this year. During design, they will hold additional stakeholder meetings to get feedback on specific design elements. In the meantime, if there are any questions, feel free to reach out to Kathy Cullen – her e-mail is [kcullen@camdencpinc.com](mailto:kcullen@camdencpinc.com).
- b. **Community Solar** – Discounted PSEG Electric Billing [www.neighborhoodsun.solar/cgna](http://www.neighborhoodsun.solar/cgna)
  - i. There is still room on the solar farm for any interested residents in Camden, Burlington, and Mercer Counties who want solar energy for their residence Visit the website above to sign up.
  - ii. Rutgers has a Climate Task Force and the faculty union has asked that Task Force to consider a Community Solar plan in Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick. This would involve installing solar panels on Rutgers buildings and then inviting residents in these cities to participate in a program that would involve a discount on your energy bill and – depending on how the plan is structured – potentially owning a stake in those panels. It would also potentially involve setting up resilience hubs on campus that would provide power to Camden residents during natural disasters.
    - 1. Motion to provide a letter of support for a potential new solar project partnering with Rutgers Faculty by Sonia, seconded by Bryon. Motion approved by members present.
- c. **Campbell's/Rutgers Field Progress** – No new updates on the fields as of now. The project is moving along quickly and they intend to be open in the fall for fall sports.
- d. **Clean Streets/Joint effort to get to the curb (City/DPW/AMWA/CCMUA/CGNA/Reyes-Morton/Parking Authority/CBID/WM)**
  - i. **Please comply with the “No Parking W/F 8am-12pm” signage, ticketing will resume every W&F starting in June.**
  - ii. We continue to encourage community members to move their cars every Wednesday and Friday from 8am to 12pm to make room for CSSD to clean and weed whack the tree pits. Several tree pits still need to be weed whacked. We will continue to pass out the American Water street sweeping flyers as a warning – with the possibility of the Camden City Parking Authority starting to ticket in July. Please pay attention to the street signage.
  - iii. The CSSD hotline is for emergencies only, according to Caren Fishman. She mentioned that they can't have residents calling to ask for specific work done in front of their house since CSSD has multiple neighborhoods to take care of. The hotline number is 856-379-3389.
  - iv. Councilwoman Reyes-Morton will be having a meeting with Mayor Carstarphen about moving forward with the residential parking..

## 5. New Business

- a. **Arts Committee Report (Vacant Chair Position) / C-G Book Ark (free book library in the Community Garden)**
  - i. **Community Art and Film Festival/Porch Party/Block Party Potential Dates.** Cynthia Primas (IDEA Center) is present at the meeting.
    - 1. Mentioned a possible partnership with CGNA and IDEA Center to host a community arts festival around the time of the community block party. Right now they are looking at a tentative date of Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Johnson Park. We are starting to work on logistics – had the thought of integrating the community arts festival with the annual block party. We wanted to get some ideas and feedback about this idea and hopefully co-sponsor this event if possible. Cynthia and the IDEA center are on board with this idea, but they would definitely need some help from the community. They want to do an Art and Music festival in September and hope to do it in Johnson Park. They would need our help to plan this community festival and would be a great opportunity to work together. She will keep us posted and it sounds like Rutgers will let us use the park.

- a In the past, we have held block parties which were essentially potluck events, with food provided by the residents and sometimes there would be things like face painting for kids and music. We would love to have more people involved in the block party. Since we were thinking of doing the block party on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, it would be great to work with the IDEA center and integrate the arts and music event.
  - 2 Cynthia mentioned that they want to start planning for a community film festival next year in 2022. They would invite the community and businesses to basically sponsor this film festival. It would be great to hold this event, especially since there is nothing like this in the city. Cynthia would love for Cooper Grant to help co-host this event and mentioned it would be a great opportunity for filmmakers and youth that want to do independent films. They are open to suggestions.
    - a Bryon mentioned that CGNA has a portable movie screen with inflatable screen and speakers, which we could use for the film festival to show movies outside. Councilwoman Reyes-Morton suggested having a component in which high school students could submit short films to be shown during the event. Cynthia mentioned that they have a filmmaker who will be working with kids to get them ready to create their own films. Want to give them an opportunity to have their voices heard. Councilwoman Morton suggested speaking with the Mayor since there may be some movies being filmed in the city which would bring in some of those filmmakers. Cynthia mentioned that they would love to do some fundraising and possibly get some grant money in order to bring in some guest speakers, such as a well-known filmmaker.
    - b Councilwoman Reyes-Morton suggested incorporating the county library system into the event and using those resources as well.
  - 3 Motion to support and co-sponsor the annual CGNA block party as well as the proposed Community Arts and Film Festival by Bryon, approved by members present.
- b. **Planning Committee (Grants: NRTC, Cooper Foundation)**
  - i **Bread & Roses Update / Phase 2 of Grant** – We were awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of funding (\$10,000). We were awarded the Bread and Roses grant last year, which was \$20,000 total (10,000 each year). We were not guaranteed the second half of the grant unless we demonstrated that we put the first half of grant money to good use. We hired a consultant for the project who did a lot of research about community access and public spaces and developed a report. We reported this progress and were awarded the second part of the funding. We want to use the funding to support activating the public spaces we have trouble with and bring awareness to public use of spaces. The point of the grant is to get access to public spaces and creating equitable and accessible public spaces. We have not received the funds in our account yet.
  - ii **NRTC** – We spent \$15k to update our plan last year and applied to the NRC plan/state funding to receive funding to replace the money we spent. We did hear from the state, and they do have our grant applications from June 2020 queued up and it was recommended for funding. We are waiting on final board decision to reimburse CGNA for the funding we laid out and to pay for our consultant assistance. Not 100% done yet but it looks like it is moving forward. The second piece of this is submitting our plan for approval. Bryon has been working with Ben, Jonathan L., and Joe Myers of Cooper's Ferry as well as other stakeholders in the neighborhood to get letters of support as well as ideas for activities. They have been gathering all this information and intending to submit this application tomorrow (June 29<sup>th</sup> 2021). Need a vote of confidence from CGNA that we want to submit the plan accepted for the potential of writing for implementation of funds with our partners. If the plan is approved, then we can apply for implementation funds from various businesses and others in the area who are interested in the tax credit to support various programs in the city.
    - 1 Need a vote of confidence from CGNA that we want to submit the plan for acceptance to DCA for the potential of writing for implementation funds with our partners – Motion by Sonia, seconded by Cynthia. Motion carried by members present.
      - a Councilwoman Reyes-Morton and members present expressed their thanks to all the CGNA members and others who worked on this project. Our plan is unique because the neighborhood has paired with Central Waterfront area and includes the downtown area, whereas many of the other neighborhood plans are mostly residential. There is the potential to provide programs that benefit businesses and other small companies in the area. Part of the plan is supporting economic development, infrastructure, as well as programs (including afterschool programs).
    - 2 Bryon asked Councilwoman Reyes-Morton for help with reaching out to the Mayor and getting a letter of support from the Mayor. It's one of the last things we'd like to include to send with the application.
- c. **Development Committee Report**

- i. **ABC Barrel Lot RFP Posted** – No update so far on ABC. We are investigating many other options for that land. WE actually included this issue in our application for NRTC funds – specifically the challenge to get residential development in the neighborhood.
- ii. M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building (<https://hestaliving.com/thepierre/>) – We're looking to have a meeting with M and M since we have not been receiving our minimum contribution of \$6,000 and have not seen the audited accounting reports to know what the financial stability of the project is at this point. The Pierre building still has the art gallery space for anyone who knows an artist or is an artist that is interested in using the space to showcase their work.
- iii. Stacey and Will from EMR have been canvassing and surveying the community in Waterfront South. They will be canvassing the neighborhood within the next few weeks to speak with Cooper Grant residents about community outreach with EMR. She said there will be about five questions and she encourages everyone to participate. They will also have an event at the end of July and will provide an invitation in the future.

## 6. Announcements

- a. Trash returns to twice a week – Wednesday (recycling also) and Saturday AM
- b. [Virtua Farmer's Market](#) Tuesdays: 12-1:30pm 520 Market St (Roosevelt Park)
- c. Rutgers-Camden Community Fields Access: 856-225-2470 Monday through Friday from 10 AM – 6 PM
- d. Soccer Sundays – pickup soccer – Sundays 4-6pm at the Rutgers Community Fields open to all.
- d. 2021 Zone 1 Parking Passes are available / Enforcement happening [www.camdenparking.net](http://www.camdenparking.net)
- e. Street Sweeping first full week of the month (Wed. 7/7 and Fri. 7/9) – please move your vehicles or be ticketed!
- f. Caren Fishman (CSSD) announced that they are raising the wages for the CSSD workers starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (\$15/hr for ambassadors and \$19/hr for team leaders) and they are looking for workers (who live in the city of Camden). They really need additional ambassadors and team leaders! They have a second chance program as well. Anyone interested and/or knows someone who needs a job can call the CSSD Hotline number.
- g. Connect the Lots will be having another event next month – the "I Paddle" event, which is Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. For more information and to register, please visit <http://www.ctlcamden.com/>. Bryon mentioned that this is a popular event and spots fill up quickly.
- h. There is yoga on Tuesdays at 6PM on the waterfront at RCA Pier Park (in front of American Water) from June through August this summer.
- i. Cynthia mentioned that the IDEA Center is starting their summer program with three classes that are offered to teens. They will be offering multimedia program with music production, graphic design, animation, and TV production. They will be starting that next Tuesday (July 6<sup>th</sup>). They will also be doing a visual arts program with theatre and dance on Wednesdays. The visual and performing arts program is open for children ages 9-12 and then ages 14-16 for the other classes. These classes are being held as a summer camp program through the IDEA Artists Initiative.
- j. Next CGNA Meeting will be held **Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at 7:00 PM (online)

## 7. Adjournment – 7:49 PM. Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sonia, motion carried by members present.

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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@coopergrant.org) & like our Facebook page: [@coopergrantneighbors](https://www.facebook.com/coopergrantneighbors)**  
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