

Meeting: **Monday, October 25th, 2021 7:00 PM**

– Virtual Meeting > Join <https://temple.zoom.us/j/97785111923> +13126266799,,97785111923# - 10 Attending

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:05 PM

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by Marcelle, seconded by Jonathan M. Motion carried by members present.

3. Treasurer's Report –

- a. *Bryon Yoder was unable to be present tonight but e-mailed the treasurer's report ahead of time to be presented in the meeting.* The beginning balance for the month of October was \$16,268.65. There was one expenditure of \$94.15 for the block party liability insurance, leaving an ending balance of \$16,192.50. Still waiting to disburse checks for the block party as well as other projects. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Jonathan L.

4. Neighborhood Safety and Security

- a. Any recent issues? You must call 911 and get a report number for an incident be officially reported.
- i There was a shooting in the neighborhood on 3rd and Cooper Street, near the Rutgers Campus. We were told it was an isolated incident but it happened at 6:50 PM, which is concerning. Mike Sepanic mentioned that Camden Metro PD is the lead agency on this but they (Rutgers) has not heard anything definitive since then. Jonathan L. mentioned that there seems to be more alerts for gunfire in the neighborhood north of the bridge and it seems to be every other day. Neighbors are reminded to call 911 if they hear gunfire or anything out of sorts.
 - ii A few neighbors had a few things taken out of their cars over the past couple of weeks. Not everyone is reporting it and those that did, were told to go to the Police Administration Building. We're trying to get officers in the neighborhood to file the reports because not everyone will go to the Administration Building and then the incidents are not being reported properly. We're trying to encourage neighbors to follow through on the report and call 911 for incidents like this.
- b. Emergency Call 911 or 24hr Tipline: 856-757-7042 or STOPit Online Application (Code: CAMDENNJ)

5. Old Business

- a. **Infrastructure/Roadway Projects (Port Roads/Market/Federal/7th St)** – Kathy Cullen from Camden Partnership provided Jonathan L with an update.
- i **Cooper Street** - They repaved Cooper and Haddon Ave recently. They also repainted some on the lines. They're working with the county to get some of their lines restriped to get the traffic flowing out of Cooper. Cooper Street paving is still a work in progress.
 - ii **7th Street/Pearl Street area** – They are working on the approval process and there will be some construction by the bridge entrance/ Burger King area. Hoping to have this project started in December. This area has a lot of potholes and needs some serious work.
 - iii **Market/Federal Street** – Seems like they are still gathering input and talking to consultants about what the next steps are. Jonathan L. talked to several business owners about the Market/Federal Street project and there were some concerns about keeping this a one way versus a two-way. There was a small meeting with Joe Myers of Camden Partnership, Jonathan L., and some of the business owners. Businesses were looking to develop a main street corridor area going to the waterfront. Business owners are hoping that there will be a public meeting about this project in the future. There were originally five options proposed to the community, then they added a sixth option based on feedback and voting, then added a seventh option, which hasn't been voted on yet. Jonathan L. did testify in front of the county council in October to express concerns about where this project is going since this is a county road that runs through the city. We're just hoping that the county

listens to the concerns of the business owners, the property owners, and the community about this project so we can take care of our small businesses.

- b. **Campbell's/Rutgers Field Progress** – There have been a few articles posted about the progress of the field. It's a beautiful complex but it seems like they still have some work to do. Mike Sepanic of Rutgers Camden is present at the meeting. They just had to put another change order in to work on some things and complete the facility. There needs to be some work done with the outfield wall, the locker rooms, and running the electricity system to the scoreboard. Mike does not know a completion date. We may have someone coming to November CGNA meeting with an update. Ben may have written an e-mail about the water retention pond but otherwise the field looks good.
- c. **Last Mile Transportation Survey: Last Mile Solution Survey (qualtrics.com)** – Looking to get as many city residents and whoever works in the city to respond to this survey. If you have some time, please take this survey. There's a lot of projects coming to the city so the community input is important.
- d. **Purple Air Monitor Crowdsourcing Project: <https://map.purpleair.com/>** - This a large crowd-sourcing project in which people can buy the monitors for \$250.00 and these monitors measure the quality of the air particles in the area. We have purchased five of these monitors through our grant money. There is one currently up in Cooper Grant neighborhood. The website has a map that shows what the reading is for each of the air monitors. Jonathan L. has been in touch with different neighborhoods (Waterfront South, North Camden, Cramer Hill, etc.) to put the additional monitors throughout the city neighborhoods and spread them out across the city. Trying to spread them out to get a good representation of the air quality throughout the city and collect data over time.

6. New Business

- a. **Halloween in Cooper-Grant** - Orange Ribbons will be passed around, you should hang the ribbon on your door if you are giving out treats 10/31 – The Chacon family hands out the orange ribbons for Halloween. If you're open to having trick or treaters, put the orange ribbon on your door to let your neighbors know you're participating in trick or treating. There's a "Safe Halloween" event at the Rutgers Quad on 10/29 from 4PM to 6PM. There is a costume contest and parade at 5PM. If you don't have an orange ribbon and you want one, just e-mail Jonathan L. and he'll get one.
- b. **Recruiting new CGNA board members (all positions) President, VP, Treasurer & Secretary** – Elections in November 2021 – We are seeking additional assistance and help. This is a great time to get involved so if you know anyone, ask them to attend our elections in November during the November CGNA monthly meeting.
- c. **Arts Committee Report (Appt. Cynthia Primas/IDEA Center)** - Cynthia Primas is present at the meeting. Johnson Park used to be the Walk Whitman Arts Center and Cynthia is trying to get community access to this building. Cynthia reached out to the Rutgers Camden Chancellor and wants to discuss access with him as well as Dr. Nyeema Watson (Rutgers Vice Chancellor) to see if we can start having events there. The IDEA Center is a storefront on Market Street and they are trying to expand and create an Arts Garden in the backyard of the building to open it up for activities. After we had the music and arts festival in September, several artists called Cynthia about doing workshops at the space on a consistent basis. Some suggested workshops were Native American storytelling classes, drumming classes, and Saturday arts classes for the kids (crafting, dance, visual, music, etc.). They're also trying to do after school programs for the children. Another artist suggested doing a program related to art and social justice. Projects like this are great opportunities to tell the history of the area and get the community involved. Cynthia also mentioned opening their doors at the IDEA center for the annual CGNA holiday party in December. Cynthia stated there are other artists contacting her about working in Camden, such as a mural artist from out of state, and she suggested doing another mural in the neighborhood. Looking at Thursday, December 16th or Thursday, December 23rd for possible dates of the Annual CGNA Holiday Party. We typically do a Holiday Party in lieu of a meeting in December. Jonathan L. and Cynthia will sit down and discuss planning for this event and talk about it more during the November meeting. Ms. Cheryl will help with planning the holiday party.
 - i At the Rutgers gallery right now, there is a really cool exhibit called "A New View Camden" in the Steadman Gallery, which is now open to the public. This exhibit is related to the New View-Camden project and will be available to view until December 11th, 2021.
- d. Nate Echeverria (CSSD) is replacing Caren Fishman, who is retiring. They're going through an organizational transition with Caren retiring at the end of the year. Camden Special Services District (CSSD) is currently hiring. If you go to the Camden SSD website (www.camdenssd.com) and go to employment opportunities, you can see the positions that are open. Since the BID was established last year, it helped expand the CSSD organization and there are additional opportunities to help the community, especially with the tree project on Linden Street with removing the dead ash trees and replacing them. These are types of projects that they are looking to support.
 - i Jonathan L. mentioned the issue of the Ash trees on Linden Street. We are trying to get together some resources to dig up the stumps of the dead ash trees and replace them to help re-establish the tree canopy. This tree canopy is very valuable to the community, as it keeps the area cool, helps with water retention,

and helps with the air quality in the neighborhood. We appreciate all the work that CSSD does throughout the city and the neighborhood.

e. Planning Committee (Grants: NRTC, Cooper Foundation)

- i Bread & Roses Update / Phase 2 of Grant – We do have the \$10,000 grant, which is focused on community access to spaces. We're trying to figure out how to leverage some of that.
- ii NRTC Updates – We are approved for the \$25,000 from the grant and we have some bills to pay with that. We did apply to submit the new neighborhood plan to be eligible for the NRTC funding and we're hoping to be accepted within the next six months or so in order to apply for funding for 2022 into 2023. That potential funding is about \$900,000 and that's where we will find funding to do all these potential things we've been discussing. We intend to use some of the NRTC funding help ramp up art initiatives, housing initiatives, and all types of other things in the community/neighborhood.
- iii Cooper Foundation grant (\$5,000) – We used some of this money to purchase the Purple Air monitors to put throughout the city sections.

f. Development Committee Report

- i. ABC Barrel Lot – needs to be cut again. Hoping Olivette from CRA will come to the November meeting and give an update. We're hoping to expand the housing market in the neighborhood but there are limited options right now.
- ii. M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building (<https://hestaliving.com/thepierre/>) – They are at or near capacity with the law students being back in school. WE do still have control of the art gallery and we have the option to have events in the building. We may go back to in person meetings after the new year.

7. Announcements

- a. Cooper-Norcross Bridge Run (10k) will be on the first weekend of November, which runs through the Cooper Grant community and the Ben Franklin Bridge.
- b. Trash is now once a week on Wednesdays (recycling also). There were some recycling pick up issues recently, which we've been trying to report to the city.
- c. Rutgers-Camden Community Fields Access: 856-225-2470 Monday through Friday from 10 AM – 6 PM
- d. 2021 Zone 1 Parking Passes are available / Enforcement happening www.camdenparking.net We did hear from the Camden City Parking Authority since we've been asking about splitting the parking zones because students living north of the bridge are driving down to the campus and parking in the neighborhood since they have the residential passes. We've been seeing a lot more people visiting the city lately, including Rutgers students and people visiting the businesses, and noticing that they're parking in residential parking areas. We're also looking to expand parking on the south side of the Penn Street to accommodate more cars and help with the parking issue.
- e. Street Sweeping first full week of the month (Wed. 11/3 and Fri. 11/5) – please move your vehicles or be ticketed! Jonathan L. will get clarity about the street sweeping days with the holidays (Election Day, Veteran's Day).
- f. Next CGNA Meeting will be held **Monday, November 22nd, 2021** at 7:00 PM (online)

8. Adjournment – 7:43 PM. Cheryl motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Cynthia. 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

*****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