

Meeting: **Monday, November 22nd, 2021 7:00 PM**
– Virtual Meeting > Join – 17 people 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 Cheryl, seconded by Quinn.
Motion carried by members present.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Presented by Jonathan L. - The beginning and ending balance for the month of November was \$16,192.50. There were no transactions this month.
- b. Jonathan L. cut a check for Jonathan M. for the block party expenses and a check for Ben for the air monitors expenses. Neither have been cashed yet.
- c. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Jonathan L. by Cheryl, seconded by Carlos. Motions 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.
 - i. Jonathan L. went to a meeting at the Victor Building with CCMPD with security/safety concerns in that area (cars being entered, bikes being stolen, etc.). Trying to work out a solution with the Victor Building management and Camden County PD.
 - ii. Neighbor on 100 block Linden Street reported a fist fight between two students on Friday night November 19th, 2021 at 9:34 PM – neighbor called 911 but it doesn't seem like any police units responded after they asked caller if the individuals involved had any knives or guns (which caller said they weren't sure). Neighbor stated he has it on video.
 - iii. Neighbor on Front Street reported a car burglary in an unlocked car on Friday night. Neighbor wants to remind residents to make sure your cars are locked, especially with the holiday season approaching. There were several other reported car burglaries in the area as well.
 - iv. Jonathan L. found an Apple iWatch in the area of Front/Linden and posted on Next Door – nobody has claimed it yet. If anyone's missing an Apple iWatch, contact Jonathan L.
 - v. Neighbor mentioned that "boom cars" (which are basically cars with large speaker systems) have been popping up in random areas. He mentioned that they were over in Philly for a while and now it seems like these groups of "boom cars" have been pushed out of Philly and started showing up in Cooper's Poynt Park and Pyne Point. Neighbor said that he hasn't heard them from Cooper Grant neighborhood as much but residents on the Philly side (Fishtown, Port Richmond, etc.) reported that the noise from these events is extremely loud. Apparently there was a "boom car" event/festival at Cooper's Poynt Park a few weeks ago with hundreds of cars that seemed to be an approved event. Neighbor questioned who from Camden City approved this event because all the cars were parked on the grass at the park and tore up the grass. Neighbor said these events are typically on weekend nights.
 - vi. Ofc. Sanchez with CCPD is now present on the call with Ofc. Sime. Sgt. Levy unable to attend tonight. Jonathan L. provided a recap of the aforementioned issues brought up. Reiterated concern that residents call 911 and no police responded so it's discouraging to residents. Ofc. Sanchez stated that there should have been a response because there was a report of an active fight. He will look into this incident. Jonathan L. stated that we'd like to see police units randomly drive through the neighborhood from time to time. Resident on Front Street did mention that police knocked on her door to inquire about her exterior camera in relation to the car burglary.
 - vii. Another resident asked about the dirt bike issue – is there any update with stopping them? Ofc. Sanchez stated Sgt. Levy typically handles this issue and doesn't have an update at this time.

- viii. Still encouraging residents and community members to call 911 for any issues and obtain a report from the police. The police reports are what get entered into the statistics. StopIT application is only for reporting tips, does not generate a police response.
- b. Emergency Call 911 or 24hr Tipline: 856-757-7042 or STOPit Online Application (Code: CAMDENNJ)

5. Old Business

- a. Campbell's/Rutgers Field Progress – Jonathan L. reached out to his contacts on the joint board (Dana Redd, etc.) He keeps trying to have someone on the joint board come to a meeting but they keep putting it off and saying they'll present when everything is ready. We want them to present and have a conversation about public access to the park. They did have the Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge event there the first weekend of November with a beer garden on the ball field, even though the facility isn't finished. People were concerned that residents couldn't get out of their neighborhood because the roads were shut down for the race for 3-4 hours. Residents in the Victor couldn't leave the Victor Building parking lot due to the road closures and it was very frustrating. They had shut certain roads down (like Front Street/Cooper Street) for the run but it wasn't publicized within the neighborhood and neighbors had no idea about the road closures. Residents were stuck on Market Street and couldn't get anywhere for three hours. While the road closures were publicized to the run participants, nothing was really publicized to the city and its residents. If residents/community members have concerns about public access to the fields, please write to your local council person. It is a county-control field with a joint board with Rutgers and Rowan. We've been promised an MOU for public access for almost two years now – last time they attended our meeting was February 2020 and they haven't provided any MOU documents or an update since then.
 - i Resident mentioned a drainage area near the park on Delaware and Pearl Streets that seems to back up (thought it was backed up over the summer due to the construction). He contacted CCMUA about it and they said stagnant water should be drained within three days but neighbor noticed the stagnant water for over a week. Concerned about stagnant water with West Nile Virus, etc. Resident was wondering if this could be addressed as a punch list item with the contractor while construction is still being done at the park.
- b. Purple Air Monitor Crowdsourcing Project <https://map.purpleair.com/> - This is a crowd sourcing project where people put up air monitors to record the air quality in the area. There is one in the neighborhood on N. 2nd Street, there is another near Cooper Hospital, and a third at CFET in Waterfront South. We have one of the worst zip codes for air quality in the state. We have purchased five of these air monitors to help document the air quality data instead of relying on the state monitors. There was a huge recycling plant/tire fire in West Philadelphia a few weeks ago and the smoke was coming across the river into the city. We noticed the spiking in air quality levels overnight at the air monitor near the Ben Franklin Bridge due to the fire. We're trying to figure out where the air quality issues are coming from and trying to document what is causing changes in the air quality (whether it's coming from Philadelphia or Waterfront South etc.). We're trying to get a few more monitors up in the city (just need an internet connection – Wi-Fi - and an outside power source to put one up)
 - i Resident asked what's a normal reading – Jonathan stated that anything under 50 is considered good (green in color). Camden for Clean Air bought the first two monitors and CGNA bought an additional five monitors. Hoping to spread them out throughout the city – looking to put one up at Camden Lutheran Housing, one out in East Camden. Someone suggested asking businesses to sponsor one, if possible. The program also sends out e-mails to the owner of the monitor to alert them for air quality spikes. It also takes other readings (temperature, humidity, etc.). These air monitors are all over the country. Air quality is the number one contributor to shortening life expectancy.
 - ii Residents can call 1-877-WARNDEP to report any unusual smells/air quality issues in the area. There is an office in Camden, which is fortunate for us, so they can do a scene response if needed.

6. New Business

- a. 2021 CGNA Board Elections – Nominations and Voting for: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
 - i Vice president has been vacant since last year. All positions are available. Jonathan L. is stepping down as president as part of the election process and Jonathan M. is nominated as temporary president to run this part of the election as the only other CGNA Board Member present at the meeting. Motion by Cheryl for Jonathan L. to step down, Carlos seconded. No nays, no abstentions. Motions carried by members present.
 - ii Nominations:
 - 1 President - Jonathan M. ask for nominations for CGNA President. Carlos and Cheryl nominate Jonathan L. for CGNA President. Jonathan L. accepts nomination. Jonathan L. did mention that he will not be able to do this forever and that we are looking for other community members to get involved. Any other nominations? No other nominations put forward. Jonathan M. asked for votes on the position of CGNA President – vote for Jonathan L. as CGNA President. No nays, no

abstentions, unanimous vote for Jonathan L. as CGNA President. Jonathan L. will now take over the meeting to continue with the CGNA Board elections.

- 2 Vice president: Anyone interested in being Vice President? Bryon Yoder told Jonathan L. previously that he will be CGNA Vice President as he is not able to attend the meeting tonight. Motion by Jonathan L. to nominate Bryon Yoder as CGNA Vice President in absentia, seconded by Quinn. No other nominations put forward. Move to vote for Bryon Yoder as Vice President. No nays, no abstentions, unanimous vote for Bryon Yoder as vice president.
- 3 Treasurer. Motion for Darren Baer (in absentia), he could not make the meeting but expressed interest in helping out. He wanted to volunteer as CGNA Treasurer. Bryon can help train him. Motion to accept Darren as Treasurer by Cheryl, seconded. Motion to vote on Darren as CGNA Treasurer – No nays, no abstentions, unanimous vote for Darren Baer as treasurer. *Darren joined the meeting after the election to introduce himself.*
- 4 Secretary. Any nominations? Cheryl volunteered as Secretary. Any other nominations? No other nominations. Motion to accept nomination by Quinn, seconded. Motion to accept Ms. Cheryl as Secretary – no nays, no abstentions. Unanimous vote for Cheryl Chandler as secretary.

- b. **CGNA Holiday Party Planning, Vote Dec. 16th or 23rd, Budget, Location: IDEA Center for the Arts on Market St.** – Looking to have the annual party at the IDEA Center. Cynthia stated that the IDEA center is available for both of those days. Looking to do December 23rd, 2021 at 6PM for the CGNA holiday party. Jonathan reached out to Ms. Vedra Chandler who said that CPR is available for the date to play some live music. Estimate for CPR performing is \$450.00, and we would need \$200 for a sound engineer and approximately \$150.00 for cleanup staff. Cynthia will get back to Jonathan if there are other expenses. Also budgeting an approximate \$200 for food/drinks. People usually bring desserts for the event, which is great. Jonathan L. is estimating approximately a \$1000 budget for the CGNA Holiday party. Tamie asked if people can make donations to off-set the cost of the party as we have done in the past. Jonathan L. mentioned that we may have an activity (make your own ornament if someone wanted to sponsor that). Resident asked if we needed event insurance? Cynthia stated they are good with the event insurance as the IDEA has general insurance. Ms. Cheryl offered to help Cynthia with any party planning. Cynthia said they do have interns coming tomorrow to help decorate the space and make it festive and welcoming.
 - i Motion to approve the \$1000 budget for the CGNA Holiday Party by Cheryl, seconded by Tamie. Motion carried by members present.
 - ii Related to the holiday season, Jonathan L. mentioned that we typically put up the holiday lights on the weekend after Thanksgiving. Asked for residents to help put up lights in the neighborhood. CGNA has a bunch of lights from previous years. Cynthia put a call out to Ed Williams to see if they have funding to light up the areas around the neighborhood. Jonathan L. asked for additional funds to purchase more lights (\$200). Motion to allocate \$200 to purchase additional lights for the holiday season by Carlos, seconded by Cheryl. Motion carried by members present.
- c. **Linden and Point Street Tree Project** (*Cutting down dead trees and stump grinding*) – Jonathan L. proposed to CSSD/Camden BID Executive Director about this project and they were interested so they're helping this project go forward. They are putting it out for bid and it may get done by the end of the year. We are hoping to get this done by the end of the year after being a project for several years now.
- d. **Arts Committee Report (Cynthia Primas/IDEA Center)** – Cynthia had a conversation with Dr. Nyeema Watson of Rutgers Camden about access to Johnson Park. Cynthia is going to put a proposal together so that community members can have much more access to that park. They are also applying for a grant to have the Arts and Music Festival in that park next year. Want to incorporate culture and the arts with the community and that park. She wants to discuss activities that the community can host/attend on that property. Dr. Watson is ready to have this conversation. Cynthia is asking for input from the community. Jonathan L. suggested have a suggestion box at the holiday party for community members to provide their input as far as what activities they want to see happen in the park with public access.
- e. **Planning Committee (Grants: NRTC, Cooper Foundation)**
 - i Bread & Roses Update / Phase 2 of Grant – Still working on what to do with the second \$10,000. We can put that towards an event at Johnson Park since the grant is about accessing these types of spaces. Jonathan L. stated that there is documentation from 2004 that records that CGNA asked for development in the neighborhood since the early 1980s. It's been over 40 years that the neighborhood has been asking for houses to be built on the ABC Barrel Lot and it seems like we are missing another great opportunity in the housing market.
 - ii NRTC Updates – Waiting to hear if we're accepted for the NRTC Grant funding. Still working with the state on that.
 - iii Cooper Foundation – Applied for the grant of \$5000 to activate the space behind Friends Café but used some of the money to purchase the PurpleAir air monitors.
- f. **Development Committee Report**
 - i. **ABC Barrel Lot** – See above.

ii. **Infrastructure/Roadway Projects (Port Roads/Market/Federal/7th St)** – The last few days have been interesting. Market Street and Federal Street project – It seems like the city is just plowing ahead with Option 7 and not allowing community members to vote on it. 6ABC reported on this story and there was an opinion piece written by Inga about this issue. There are rumors that they will have another public meeting in January, which wasn't an option a few weeks ago. Cooper Street is now a highway, two lanes in, two lanes out with no parking so it can't be a business district. Market Street is one of the few areas that can be developed into a business district. Looking for more conversation about making Market Street a main street for small business corridor. Quinn mentioned that he wanted to thank Jonathan L., Cynthia, and Rosemary for getting the word out about this issue and bringing attention to it. The goals to support small businesses were not on the radar for this project. There was no attempt to slow down traffic either. He is encouraging people to be vocal about this issue. Since July, they've been pushing Option 7, which wasn't part of the conversation earlier. They say they're encouraging community input but they have not been taking this input in account for the plans and continue to barrel ahead with this seventh option. We can't continue to build highways to the waterfront.

i Tamie states that they used to encourage people to take the RiverLine by handing out vouchers to workers. It is so easy to take the RiverLine to downtown Camden but there doesn't seem to be any effort to promote this public transportation. There was a transportation survey recently about improving transportation. She doesn't live in the city but it's frustrating that there doesn't seem to be any change in the neighborhood. Jonathan L. gave Nick his contacts so Nick went up and down Market Street to get opinions from the businesses and residents on Market Street. They attended meetings and gave their opinions but nobody seems to be listening to these opinions. Jonathan L. stated that it's been a waste of time because they got all these opinions and then they changed what the options were.

iii. **M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building (<https://hestaliving.com/thepierre/>)** – Near full capacity. They do have some affordable units available. This was a last development project in the neighborhood.

i Tamie mentioned that it's interesting that there are people in the suburbs asking about units in the Victor Building and 11 Cooper Building. In her 17 years, she hasn't seen this happen.

7. Announcements

- a. Trash and recycling collection is once a week on Wednesday. Encourage your neighbors to put their trash out and take the cans back in after trash/recycling is collected.
- b. 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 Apparently they are trying to split the parking zones for Zone 1.
- e. Street Sweeping first full week of the month (Wed. 12/8 and Fri. 12/10) – please move your vehicles or be ticketed!
- f. Next CGNA Meeting will be held **Monday, January 24th, 2021** at 7:00 PM (There will be a Holiday Party in lieu of a meeting in December)
- g. There will be a poetry walk sponsored by Rocky on Tuesday, November 23rd at 4PM. Can do it virtual via Instagram or attend in person. They will walk from Rocky's house to the waterfront and discuss poetry. This is the link for the event : https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10101751540860330&id=45902870

8. **Adjournment** – 8:26 PM by Carlos seconded by Cheryl. 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