

Meeting: **Monday, January 24th, 2022 7:00 PM**

– Virtual Meeting > Join – 19 people attending

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:07 PM

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – No comments, all approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Presented by JL. - The beginning balance for the month of December was \$16,192.50 and the ending balance was \$14,270.82. There were four transactions during the month of December.
- b. 4 checks: (\$204.13) to Jonathan M. for the block party expenses; (\$1,267.55) to Ben for the air monitors; \$200 to the Idea Center for meeting space and (\$450) to CPR to cover their musical performance at the holiday party.
- c. Motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented by Jonathan L. was approved.

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. Quiet in Cooper-Grant recently. There were no CCPD officers attending the CGNA meeting to report on pertinent security issues.
 - ii. Residents and community members are encouraged to call 911 for any issues and obtain a report from the police. The police reports are what get entered into the statistics and drive investigations. The Tipline and Stopit App are only for reporting tips and do 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** – Need an update on approval for common access to the park. A meeting was held to discuss approval however, CGNA was not invited. No one from the county or the joint board of Rowan/Rutgers-Camden has attended a CGNA meeting since February 2020 and efforts to get current information regarding the promised MOU have proved futile up until this point. The answers to our questions have not be answered.
- b. **Purple Air Monitor Crowdsourcing Project** <https://map.purpleair.com/> - This a crowd source project where people put up air monitors to record the air quality in the area. CGNA purchased five monitors that are being spread throughout the city. Several weeks ago, residents reported a bad smell the air. The air quality monitor near the Ben Franklin Bridge spiked, showing red which represents poor air quality. This was the result of an inverted air mass containing pollutants stemming from a large tire recycling plant fire in West Philadelphia. Camden for Clean Air sends out e-mails to the owners of the monitors to alert them of 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. 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.
- c. **Holiday Party** – Our holiday party was held on Thursday, December, 23rd at the Idea Center for the Arts on Market Street. Although many invitees were unable to attend, about 30 people participated and enjoyed good food, music and company. Thank you to the IDEA CENTER, CPR Music, Nick Stylianos and Ms. Cheryl for all the hard work getting things together.

6. New Business

- d. **Linden and Point Street Tree Project >NJ Tree Foundation** - Meredith Pichini of the NJ Tree Foundation (NJTF) gave a presentation about their organization and their plans for tree planting in Camden. NJTF, is a non-profit that has been

planting trees in urban areas for almost twenty years through volunteerism and partnerships. NJTF provides trees and tools and asks the residents to attend a tree keeper meeting to learn about tree care as well as caring for the trees for 2 years. Fifty trees are slated to be replaced in CG including those that were destroyed by the ash borer insect on Point and Linden streets. Residents interested in tree replacement must provide contact information. Renters need permission from the property owner. Dirt for the trees will be out-sourced from the DCCB Team. Ms. Pichini said that NJTF needs potential dates for the plantings (possibly 2) because of the number of the trees. She also mentioned the possibility of integrating our planting dates with NJTF's 20th year anniversary celebration which will be held in the spring. The dates suggested are: 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/30, 5/7 or 5/14. **CGNA is leaning towards 4/30 and 5/7.** Ms. Pichini also discussed the types of trees that are tolerant to urban environments considering their height: small 25ft; medium 40ft and tall 60ft and flowering or non-flowering. Tammie Pettiford volunteered to assist renters locate their landlords to obtain permission. Volunteers to assist with the tree plantings are welcome.

- e. **Arts Committee Report (Cynthia Primas/IDEA Center)** - Cynthia is working on a proposal to present to Rutgers-Camden about community access to the former Arts Center. Cynthia had spoken with Dr. Nyeema Watson of Rutgers-Camden regarding this issue but was not present to give an update. The IDEA center wants to incorporate culture and the arts into the community and is applying for a grant to host the Arts and Music Festival in that park next year. Cynthia is asking for input from the community regarding the activities they want to see happen in the park with public access. Residents have no access to the former Arts Center.
- f. **Planning Committee (Grants: NRTC, Cooper Foundation) i**
 - 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.
 - ii NRTC Updates – \$25K applied. 90% within next two weeks for consultants.
 - iii Cooper Foundation - \$5k Grant being used for Purple Air Monitor Project
- g. **Development Committee Report**
 - 1 ABC Barrel Lot** – No new information on the plans for the project. Getting new homes built on the lot has been ongoing issue in the neighborhood for over 40 years, since the early 1980s. The current housing market is hot it appears that Cooper-Grant is missing another great opportunity. Ms Cheryl is our appointed Development Chair as CGNA secretary and will reach out to Ms. Olivette Simpson of the Camden Redevelopment Authority for an update.
 - 2 Infrastructure/Roadway Projects (Port Roads/Market/Federal/7th St)** – Need an update. City wants to forge ahead on Option 7 for a one-way street on Market while the community wants the two-way option, which would promote small business growth.
 - 3 M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building** (<https://hestaliving.com/thepierre/>) – Near full capacity. They still have some affordable units available. Need an accounting firm familiar with non-profits to prepare a 2-year compulsory report for review by M&M. Quinn may have a lead to resolve this issue.

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. 2022 Zone 1 Parking Passes are available / Enforcement happening www.camdenparking.net
- e. Next CGNA Meeting will be held **Monday, February 28th, 2022** at 7:00 PM

8. Adjournment – 8:03 PM

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 40th 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