

Meeting: Monday, February 28th, 2022 7:00 PM

– Virtual Meeting > Join – 21 people attending

Agenda:

1. Call to Order and Introductions – 7:05 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 February was \$14,270.82. There were no transactions during the month of February.
- b. 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. There have been several thefts of delivered packages in the neighborhood. Sgt. Levy of CCPD offered some tips to address this issue as well as others. He said that residents need to report crimes (such as theft or shootings) to CCPD in the proper way and officers will respond according to the severity of the incident. Sgt. Levy said that to solve crime it is crucial to have good intel and that providing photos or videos is important. The more severe crimes should be reported in person. Crime reports are issued weekly.
 - ii. For thefts of packages (or opened packages), a written report must be filed. If residents don't file a written report, no additional resources will be provided.
 - iii. Ben S. followed a possible package thief for several blocks and called the police while following. Ben mentioned that this person was riffling through a shed (which is actually considered trespassing). He was told not to pursue but to contact police and file a report. If police respond, reports can be filed on the spot versus taking a trip to the police station. Someone asked if Rutgers patrols the area. Sgt. Levy said yes, however, CCPD is responsible for reported thefts. According to Sgt. Levy, if an incident is classified as a theft, a report must be filed at the police station. Since there is some confusion about reporting and filing reports, JL requested that a responsible party speak at a future CGNA meeting to verify if current "policy" is correct. Sgt. Levy mentioned that CCPD wants to minimize police time for minor incidents which is why they want residents to file a report in person. Ben S noted that people with disabilities can request home visits.

Vicky mentioned that 6lbs of stone were stolen by a guy with a shopping cart. She followed him to Centennial Ave. and made him return it. She said that she did not report to the incident to the police. Another resident said that three catalytic converters were stolen but he only reported once, since he received no satisfactory response from the initial report. Sgt. Levy reiterated that reports need to be filed in person and that the police station is open 24/7 for report filing. He also mentioned there are ways to prevent becoming a victim by using resources such as Amazon locker, a neighbor, the back of your home, etc. Sgt. Levy is willing to advocate to help CG change the rules to make reporting easier. However, JL said that in order for that to happen, CCPD must establish a relationship with residents first to build trust.

- iv. For non-injury car accidents, police do not usually respond unless car(s) require towing. Their priority is to save officers' time for more serious events. JL commented that police can idle for hours in front of the police station and believes that resources could be better used.
 - v. 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 Agreement** > The agreement has been signed that allows public open access to the track and field from dawn to dusk (no update on the ball field). CCPD will provide security and Camden city residents can reserve and rent space for events.
- b. **Purple Air Monitor Crowdsourcing Project** <https://map.purpleair.com/> > This is 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. CG may supply monitors to local businesses to expand areas being monitored. Camden's Special Services Division (SSD) HQ is also being considered for a monitor. 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. We are fortunate to have an office in Camden, that can do a scene response if needed.
- c. **Linden and Point Street Tree Planting Project April 30th and May 7th** > 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. Ms. Meredith Pichini and some CG residents went door-to-door to gather signatures. Twelve signatures have been gathered to date, far short of the number required to plant 50 trees. Planting dates are scheduled for April 30th and May 7th.

6. New Business

- d. **EMR Incident Impact 1 year later > Mike Morgan**. Mike discussed a major fire at an EMR scrap metal facility in the Waterfront South Community and EMR's lack of communication with the community. EMR made several promises including reducing the size of the fluff piles. EMR held a public meeting but refused to share meeting info such as presentation slides and WS viewed this as a lack of transparency with the community. There was a small fire in late February at the WS facility and another significant one at a facility in Newark that took 2 days to extinguish. WS sent a letter to EMR requesting information but did not receive a response. Ms. Stacey Pierce, Director of Civic Engagement/EMR said that she did not know what caused the fire. She said that she had compiled a list of questions and forwarded them to the pertinent responders. Their questions are still being answered. She also said that her coworker, Carlos had submitted some additional questions (which may slow the progress even more). Ms. Pierce said that she was unsure about how to get the word out and did not want CGNA/Waterfront South to think that EMR was unconcerned. Ms. Pierce also noted as per the CO, EMR was not expanding their facility. JL asked about the vegetative buffer that was supposed to be put in place. Currently there are a number of trailers parked around the perimeter which is illegal. Ms. Pierce responded that she is working with the NJ Tree Foundation. She did not believe that the trailers parked along the perimeter were illegally parked. JL mentioned the \$260M credit EMR received a portion of which could be used for the vegetation versus the NJTF which is funded with grants. Motion to submit questions to EMR carried, no abstentions.
- e. **LNG Gibbstown Plant/Rail Car Path Through Camden- Food and Water Watch** > Noa Gordon-Guterman. LNG proposes to run railcars through Camden to transport natural gas to their Gibbstown plant. Transporting gas can be very dangerous and these cars will run through residential areas that include schools. Risks involved in the transport of the gas include hazardous emissions and potential accidents such as explosions. Project has not started because LNG must build a new terminal to accommodate the railcars. Food and Water Watch is pressuring Governor Murph to stand by his climate commitment and not support the project. This project will not create all of the new jobs as promised. Food and Water Watch is asking groups to sign a letter for the governor to stop the issuance of a permit. The signed petition is due by the end of the 1st week in March. Jonathan L made a motion for CGNA to sign the petition. Motion carried with one abstention by Sonia Morales.
- f. **Community Solar and Resiliency Hub Project Discussion** > Working with a few Rutgers professors on a community solar and resiliency hub in or near campus. Details to come.
- g. **CSSD Ray Romano** is the new manager of the Camden Special Services District (SSD). His staff wear yellow jackets as they pick up leaves and trash to make our city cleaner. There is a KYW news article entitled "Yellow Jackets Making Waves." You can reach out to them via phone (856) 579-3389, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn or email,

romano@camdenssd.com. If you see a problem take some pictures and send them in. They are open weekdays from 10-6 pm.

h. **Arts Committee Report (Cynthia Primas/IDEA Center)** > Cynthia is working to create an environment of peace within the Arts. The center offers classes in theater, dance, visual arts and animation. On Sundays in March from 2-4, the IDEA center is offering music (jazz). April is poetry month and the Center welcomes Sandra Turner and Dickson Lam for a story-telling festival. This summer, we can look forward to the Johnson Park Arts & Musical Festival; the Art Garden at the IDEA center to be used as a peaceful, calming and nurturing neighborhood retreat, featuring a butterfly garden. Volunteers needed. Cynthia also has plans for the 1st Camden Film Festival. We are in store for a great spring and summer season. More dates and details will be provided. No updates on resident access to the former Arts Center in Johnson Park.

i. **Planning Committee (Grants: NRTC, Cooper Foundation)**

i Bread & Roses Update / Phase 2 of Grant – have \$10k want to focus on event programming

ii NRTC Updates – 90% received. Used to reimburse CGNA for grant expenditures. Splits to be coming.

j. **Development Committee Report**

1 ABC Barrel Lot – Lot was cut but no one knows why. No new information on the plans for the project. Cheryl reached out to Olivette Simpson of the Camden Redevelopment Authority but did not receive a reply. She will reach out again. 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 and it appears that Cooper-Grant is missing another great opportunity.

2 Infrastructure/Roadway Projects (Port Roads/Market/Federal/7th St) – Plans for Option 7 seem to have pivoted after 2 months. Still uncertain about the final decision, so we need an update. Originally, the city wanted to forge ahead on Option 7 for a one-way street on Market while the community wanted the two-way option, which would promote small business growth.

3 M&M Partnership @ The Pierre building (<https://hestaliving.com/thepierre/>) – M&M signed the tax-credit and CGNA will discuss the \$6K past due as well as the upcoming \$12K due annually. They still have some affordable units available.

4 Parking City is currently developing an online system for parking. Updates will be provided.

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, April 25th, 2022** at 7:00 PM

8. Adjournment – 9:12 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](https://www.facebook.com/coopergrantneighbors)
www.coopergrant.org