

Dear fellow Cherokee Park Neighborhood Residents:

We realize that there has been a lot of confusion surrounding the election of the 2006 CPNA Executive Board. Unfortunately, much of this confusion was the result of the 2005 CPNA President, Bill Lorge, acting independently, without consulting or having approval of other board members. Since he is now requesting funds from neighborhood residents, we believe it is imperative that certain facts be told to clarify the current situation.

At the annual meeting, held on January 21, 2006, the Nominations Chairperson asked for additional time to identify and confirm people as candidates. The people in attendance voted to postpone the election of new board members and allow the Nominations Chairperson to run the election as she saw fit. One possibility discussed was to distribute ballots via the block captains. She had hoped to hold the election within a week or two of the annual meeting.

A lot has happened during the past month related to finding a new board, most of which the majority of the neighborhood never knew. There were several points at which ballots could have been sent out to the neighborhood but Mr. Lorge refused to establish a fair process or a slate of candidates and ultimately, caused the person who was going to oversee the election to quit. Over time, many of the candidates decided not to run. When it became evident that Mr. Lorge would not cooperate to allow a fair and open election, the rest of the executive board decided that this important matter could be delayed no longer and took action to hold an election. Unfortunately, assembling participants for a ballot proved very difficult since most of the people who had been interested would no longer consider serving. Therefore, the majority of the 2005 CPNA Executive Board (three of four members) called a special meeting and proceeded to make arrangements for the election according to the bylaws. Mr. Lorge was notified of this meeting before the announcements went out to the neighborhood. A petition was also drawn up requesting the special meeting and was signed by 60 neighborhood residents, (accord to the bylaws a minimum of 25 members can request a special meeting). The process of calling this special meeting was reviewed by a number of legal experts all of whom agree that it was valid, appropriate and necessary.

When the special meeting was called, everything possible was done to make sure everyone in the neighborhood could take part in the election. The bylaws are vague on who is qualified to vote so the board chose to stick with the procedure that has always been used for the annual meeting. The meeting notice was distributed to all homes in the

neighborhood and information was provided on how to vote by proxy for people who could not attend the meeting. The proxy procedures which were used are clearly spelled out in the bylaws. Because candidates were still being recruited, there was no information about candidates included in the notice. If this official notice had been the only information received before the meeting (which it should have been), no one in the neighborhood should have felt they did not get a chance to vote. Unfortunately, Mr. Lorge sent out email messages to the neighborhood distribution list contradicting much of the Executive Board's plans and discussing a separate election not sanctioned by the Executive Board.

With regard to the mailing that was sent to all neighborhood residents, the letter and ballots were drafted by Mr. Lorge and he never shared them with any other members of the board prior to mailing. Earlier that week, a freeze was placed on the CPNA account at the UPS Store due to concerns that expenses could be incurred on behalf of the neighborhood that were not approved by a majority of the board. Mr. Lorge was aware that charges could not be made to the CPNA account and according to the owner of the UPS Store, he had agreed to personally pay for these services. On Thursday February 23rd, Dayna Dalton, the 2006 President of CPNA was contacted by the UPS Store regarding these ballots. Mr. Lorge had directed the employee to call Dayna with regard to securing payment for his contracted services. Neither the 2005 executive board nor the new board believe it is appropriate that the neighborhood should have to pay over \$400 for an unauthorized election.

Now that the facts have been presented, we sincerely hope you continue to support the Cherokee Park Neighborhood Association. The new board looks forward to providing the neighborhood with exciting activities during 2006 and a forum in which to raise concerns regarding our unique neighborhood. In the future, all CPNA business should be addressed to the 2006 CPNA Executive Board listed below. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of us.

2006 CPNA Executive Board

President - Dayna Dalton

Vice President - Jeni Hanser

Treasurer - Diane Knauff

Secretary - Alison Lindsay Mares