

**Community Participation Program  
2011 - 2012 Annual Report  
Folwell Neighborhood Association**

*1. Accomplishments*

Early in the second quarter of 2011 a tornado blew through north Minneapolis leaving a path of destruction that affected hundreds of families and dwellings. The morning after the storm, Folwell Neighborhood Association (FNA) opened its doors, with emergency lighting, operating on cell phones but with a clear understanding that our work was to be present; to listen and to communicate information to residents in need of resources and be a point of contact for city agencies. In the eight months following May 22<sup>nd</sup>, FNA was pivotal in northside projects that marshaled hundreds of volunteers who collected and removed hundreds of tons of debris from the affected neighborhoods. Most of the staff and program energy was directed toward remediating the effect of the storm and planning for the reconstruction of the physical and social infrastructure.

Earlier in May of 2011, FNA, in partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, CURA and the Pohlada Family Foundation delivered the Housing Market Index (HMI) which is a benchmark of housing conditions and is designed to provide reliable and accurate information for housing stabilization, land use and planning in north Minneapolis neighborhoods. Most of the information that form the basis for the HMI was the result of FNA's long commitment to housing issues and work as a community advocate for residents.

For FNA, the calendar of events for the period following the tornado and well into 2012 was modified with only the Ice Cream Social and Annual Meeting continuing as usual. There was, and remains, a proliferation of meetings resulting in new collaborations that are struggling to find permanence among north Minneapolis neighborhoods. 1150 folks participated in the Ice Cream Social in June of 2012, a record attendance at an event that connected residents to fun and games, but also to resources in public safety, education and health and welfare. That event was also the rollout of FNA's Bright Ideas campaign, currently supported by five other northside neighborhoods, to connect with residents about what they think and truly believe are the best ideas that would benefit their neighborhood.

There are a few ongoing programs that have a specific impact on residents and the larger community. 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct CARE Task Force originated with FNA in 1998 and has met weekly since then. The work of the CARE Task Force is centered in public safety and crime prevention and intervention. "We Watch -We Call" is a program that strives to build resident awareness and community engagement by connecting residents on each block with solutions to problems and introduces the idea of neighbor to neighbor support as one sign of a healthy neighborhood. Over three thousand "We Watch We Call" signs have been placed in northside neighborhoods - 1300 of those in 2011 alone.

*2. CPP Submission*

This contract period does not provide a realistic measurement for outcomes from planning and budget work that was done in December of 2010. Nothing that was planned remained static or viable with the challenges post tornado and the demands that were immediate and precedent.

### 3. Stakeholder Involvement

See response to CPP *Submission*: Also, we made contact with hundreds of people within and outside of our specific service area. Many of these folks returned to FNA for additional services and information. FNA referred some of these residents to neighborhood organizations depending on their address and as a result of that connection some of them did make contact and have begun to work with those organizations.

It was interesting to note that since January 1, 2012 – June 30<sup>th</sup> the free fax and notary service that FNA provides has been used by 193 people. These folks sign-in with name, address and contact number or email. In 2011, more than 500 people used the service – many of those transmissions were multi-page, storm related insurance documents, or information required in response to requests for assistance.

Since the tornado, we have begun to see a renewed interest from Folwell residents in reconstructing the social, as well as the environmental infrastructure of the neighborhood; they are showing interest in block building activities, an increased awareness of the social environment on their blocks and volunteering for various outreach projects.

Please also provide the following:

How many people currently serve on your board? **There are nine of a possible eleven Board Members**

Are there vacancies? **There are two vacancies that will be filled in November.**

Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year? **Folwell does not have standing committees. 57 people volunteered for special outreach activities in 2011.**

How many people attended your annual meeting? **30 neighborhood residents**

How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters, newspapers or electronic newsletters)? 1900

Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization? **The CARE Task Force has 22 regular attendees. Special meetings of the CARE Task Force have a variety of participants not counted in the Wednesday meetings (15-20) per meeting or project, with an average of three meetings a year.**

**In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City departments and other jurisdictions.**

*City – Impact* What interactions occupied a major part of your time? What worked well, what could be improved?

**Housing, (problem properties), Minneapolis Police Department (issues and concerns); interaction with these agencies as a resident advocate on specific problems and properties. Our relationship with Regulatory Services consistently works well and the outcomes are as anticipated, usually with resolution of the issues to the satisfaction of residents and the association.**

**FNA has strong and effective connections with the Minneapolis Police Department which is demonstrated by the success of innovative partnerships in the arena of curfew,( 10-Home – Fed-Bed); truancy, and The Prostitution Project, a prevention and intervention initiative.**

**Currently, FNA/4<sup>th</sup> Precinct CARE Task Force is the lead on Enough is Enough – No One Dies, a prevention and intervention initiative involving five other northside neighborhoods in response to the five juvenile homicides that have occurred since summer of 2011.**

**Other city departments Public Works, the Health Department, Zoning and Planning for example, interact with neighborhoods only when policy or ordinance requires that they do.**

**From our perspective there is very little coordination of city actions even when the anticipated outcomes intersect with other department’s decisions or plans. CPED is the classic example of an absence of, or unwillingness to participate in collaborative decision making. CPED is a model of authoritative imposition of decisions, especially related to neighborhood organizations.**

*City Communications – effectiveness* **Communication with the City, any agency or department is only as good as understanding the question and asking for a specific answer. Communication on a agency basis is much simpler than it is for residents which is one of the reasons FNA acts as an advocate.**

*City Communications – timeliness*

**Communication from the City is usually timely. Most of their communication is directed by policy or ordinance.**

*City Departments*

**Designing an effective and collaborative process for how city agencies function in relation to neighborhood organizations is complicated and a job for NCR. The variety of expectations that neighborhood organizations have about communication and working with the city needs to be defined. Perhaps a round table for discussion in a regional setting such as the neighborhoods in north Minneapolis (NNC).**

*City Assistance*

**How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a citizen participation group?**

**See answer above**