

Hawthorne Neighborhood Council Community Participation Program Annual Report 2011

1. *Accomplishments*

What were your organization's major accomplishments in 2011? How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work? (Note: focus on your accomplishments, not your activities, such as "Field Regina Northrup organized the Lee Family 80th Anniversary Commemoration on July 16, 2011, recognizing an important story in the history of Civil Rights in Minneapolis. In addition to engaging more than 1,000 residents, the event coincided with the City's Community One Read event, providing the opportunity to connect the commemoration with broader city events.")

In 2011, the Hawthorne Neighborhood Council saw a successful conclusion to a multi-year effort to get a Hmong-speaking police officer on the day shift in the 4th Precinct. The issue was brought to us by partners at CURA and we worked with many neighborhood residents to hold community forums and pressure the Minneapolis Police Department to make this move. In the short time that Officer Vang has been in his new position, he has already proven helpful in situations like when a Hmong family had their home shot at.

Hawthorne has expanded its community gardening efforts, with a new partnership at the Kwanzaa Church community garden on 21st Ave N and Dupont Ave N. Our South Hawthorne Community Garden has been full, and has many plots being used by southeast Asian neighbors. The EcoVillage garden is in its second year, with dedicated programming in partnership with Project for Pride in Living, and continues to improve. Hawthorne distributed over eighty trees from its EcoVillage tree nursery after the tornado. The tree nursery site is being converted to a new "Net Zero" home in 2012, but has distributed over 150 trees to north Minneapolis residents.

In and around the EcoVillage, six new homeowners have purchased homes since 2011: Four through Habitat for Humanity, one through Project for Pride in Living, and two with their own funds. Two of those owners used Hawthorne Advantage down payment assistance, and three are active on Hawthorne boards or committees. The EcoVillage was also the subject of a series of landscape design charettes, which helped the community update its vision and planning for the project area.

The Hawthorne Neighborhood Council built new partnerships in 2011 as well. We merged our business committee with the West Broadway Coalition, and supported the WBC's successful initiative to move the Farmers Market to the Hawthorn Crossings area in accordance with the West Broadway Alive! Plan. Hawthorne was a founding member of the Lowry Corridor Business Association, along with the Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, and Cleveland neighborhoods.

In partnership with the Northside Community Reinvestment Coalition, we have been advocating for local governments to participate in responsible banking initiatives. The

goal has been to get either ordinances or RFP processes changed so that banks who hold government deposits and make money off of related banking services must disclose certain types of information as part of their relationship with local government. Similar initiatives have passed in places like Cleveland, Baltimore, and Los Angeles. The information will allow the City and County to determine how well their banking partners are serving the community. NCRC was able to get responsible banking language included in the upcoming Hennepin County banking services RFP, and is working on a more lasting ordinance with the City of Minneapolis.

Future use of the Mississippi River has been a key issue for Hawthorne in 2011-12. Hawthorne members were consistently engaged in the Mississippi Riverfront Design Initiative, and lobbied strongly for the Farview Land Bridge to remain a top priority for the redesign. Our Environment Committee members have remained strong advocates for the 26th Avenue North Greenway as the reconstruction of that corridor is now underway. The exact bike path plans have not yet been determined, however. Residents have also organized around the potential rezoning of the industrial area by the riverfront and the draft emissions permit request by Northern Metals. HNC has supported its residents in the Riverview Townhomes as they work to limit industrial zoning in their backyards. Over twenty people attended a Northern Metals planning session at Farview Park, and in conjunction with leadership at the Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, over forty people from across the northside attended a hearing at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. That meeting was cut short by a court order before testimony could be heard, and we continue to organize against the draft permit application.

The Crime Prevention and Family Safety committee witnessed a distressing resurgence of criminal activity along the 4th Street corridor between 21st and 26th Avenues. Block clubs communicated with the 4th Precinct, staff and neighbors did litter pick-ups to clean up the block and observe activity, and a mobile police camera was installed on the corner of 4th and 25th. All of Hawthorne's committees and its board supported the rezoning of Serenity Suites at 2510 4th Street North. The multi-year effort by Jonah Bridger came to a successful conclusion in 2012, as the property was rezoned to allow rehab work to begin. Once the apartments are occupied, there will be many new quality residents on a key intersection, who will add to the safety and vitality of the area.

Hawthorne's environment committee led one of the most successful Earth Day events in quite some time. A fraternity from St. Thomas picked up over twenty bags of trash along the River and through the industrial corridor. Our Clean Sweep event resulted in even more garbage removal, along with the pickup of roughly fifty tires.

2. 2011 CPP Submission

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, what outreach and engagement activities did you carry out? What worked well, and what did not work so well? Why? The NorthFirst events worked well, along with postcard mailings and web notifications about planning in our communities. We did doorknocking and outreach regarding crime prevention and foreclosure prevention. We utilized the Minneapolis Issues

Forum on e-Democracy.org to both disseminate and gain information about Northern Metals.

Hawthorne and various city departments worked together to conduct inspections sweeps in one part of the neighborhood. We notified residents via postcard about the sweeps and held an informational meeting. Attendance was sparse and this initiative could have been improved upon.

3. *Stakeholder Involvement*

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, how did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities? Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful?

We continued our partnership with CURA in reaching out to Hmong residents, but our lone southeast Asian board member moved out of the neighborhood. We haven't been able to recruit a new representative from that group. However, our board has more renters than it has had in a long time. These members became involved through their church affiliations and because other active friends of theirs asked them to. Our most successful outreach strategies have been the tried and true community organizing tactics—asking for participation and communicating with newer members. Some of our board and committee members made intentional efforts to educate newer members about city and partner structures and acronyms, and this helped retain the new participants.

Please also provide the following:

- A. How many people currently serve on your board? Are there vacancies? Eighteen people serve on our board and there are currently no vacancies.
- B. Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year? Approximately 200.
- C. How many people attended your annual meeting? Seventy-two.
- D. How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters or newspapers)? 2,337.
- E. Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization? 50.

4. *Financial Reports*

Please provide an income and expense report for your organization for the year. (Please include all funding sources).

See Attachment

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

1. *Impact*

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

Building relationships among other north Minneapolis neighborhoods, and bringing new people onto our boards and committees made up much of our time and worked well. We could improve by getting more renters or southeast Asians on our boards and committees. We also need to improve upon our website, electronic communications, and send out newsletters with more frequency.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

Yes.

3. *City Communications – timeliness*

Do you receive adequate notice of City activities in your neighborhood? If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? Please explain.

Yes, although events along the River are not publicized well enough. This is likely a Park Board issue.

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

One way that City departments could help in the neighborhood is to have meetings with boards and committees to talk about which specific items (zoning variances, certain types of housing permits or business licenses, etc.) are things that the City expressly wants community input on. A mutually understood system of prior notification would help the neighborhood understand what items to prioritize and when to get them on meeting agendas. The more this could be standardized across multiple neighborhoods, the better.

5. *City Assistance*

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

Hawthorne could benefit from seeing how similar neighborhoods have tackled issues that we have in front of us. A citywide “best practices” report that highlights neighborhood successes would be very useful in helping generate ideas for how our community could address things like crime, blight, and business or community development. We would especially appreciate ideas and success stories on outreach to renters and people of color or immigrants.

6. *Other comments?*