



**Community Participation Program
Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (LHiNC)
2011 Annual Report**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Organization Name:	Linden Hills Neighborhood Council	
Address:	P.O. Box 29049 Minneapolis, MN 55424	
Website url:	Lindenhills.org	
Organization email:	info@lindenhills.org	
Federal EIN:	41-1805319	
Board Contacts:	Name:	Grant Hawthorne & Constance Pepin, Co-Chairs
	Phone:	
	Email:	_____
	Address:	
Staff Contact:	Name:	Christy Prediger
	Phone:	
	Email:	

1. Accomplishments

Major accomplishments for 2011 include:

- Collaborating to raise funds for the complete renovation of the Linden Hills park tennis courts and athletic court, the groundbreaking occurred July 10 and completion of the project is estimated for Summer 2013.
- Securing an HOURCAR car-sharing hub for Linden Hills through collaboration between HOURCAR, the City of Minneapolis' Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Settergren Ace Hardware.
- Reimbursing neighborhood residents for completed solar projects through LHiNC's SolarFlow program.
- Donating funds in the form of grants to organizations/projects that make Linden Hills a better place to live and work, such as: Minneapolis Pops Orchestra, Linden Hills Park, Linden Hills Chamber Orchestra, MNArtCar Parade.
- Installing two permanent chess tables in Linden Hills Park for the enjoyment of all.
- Updating welcome packets for distribution to all new neighborhood residents that include neighborhood contact information, a listing of neighborhood resources, a business directory, and coupons and other discounts.
- Hosting the Linden Corner Open House which presented an open and unbiased forum for the exchange of information relevant to the large-scale development proposed in 2011 for downtown Linden Hills.
- Continuing collaboration with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to offer family-friendly, open-to-all programs and events at Linden Hills Park

- Participating in the MPRB's Park Stewards program to protect and preserve the William Berry Woods, a unique and valuable native plant community in Linden Hills
- Partnering with the MPRB, East Harriet-Farmstead Neighborhood Association, and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis on the Roberts Revitalization Project to develop and implement a long-term management plan to enhance and protect the Sanctuary as a natural and undeveloped area for birds.
- Collaborating with MetroBlooms and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to subsidize the design and installation of rain gardens for over 20 families, as a means to educate and support families in reducing stormwater runoff that pollutes urban lakes and waterways.
- Bringing over 3,000 people together to enjoy the Spring Festival at Linden Hills Park, executed with the help of over 140 volunteers and many donations and sponsorships from area businesses and residents.
- Facilitating the annual Linden Hills neighborhood garage sales: with over 100 registered sales, the event brought shoppers from outside the community into the neighborhood, and promoted a sense of neighborhood unity and fun.
- Maintaining open communications with Linden Hills residents, through the bi-monthly newsletter, monthly e-news, email distribution list, social media, voicemail, website, flyers and signage in the neighborhood, and open Board Meetings.

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?

Outreach and engagement activities for 2011 included communications from the bi-monthly newsletter, monthly e-newsletters, open board and committee meetings, community events such as the Spring Festival, collaborative work with local businesses, and the redesign of the Linden Hills Welcome Packets for new neighbors, all of which worked well and were successful at engaging the community. The expansion of the neighborhood network of block leaders was not completed, and thus, will be a project for a future funding period. We currently are challenged with low LHiNC Board membership, despite calls for new members, and low membership numbers on LHiNC Committees. We feel that our efforts to recruit new members and volunteers have not worked especially well, and that our recruitment strategies need to be 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?

A variety of communications methods were used to reach out to community members with varying degrees of communications technology usage, ranging from U.S. Mail and

door-to-door delivery of the bi-monthly newsletter to enhanced use of our website and social media. This range of communications methods appeared to be successful in reaching different segments of the community, such as homeowner and renters, younger residents and seniors. Also successful, was holding events during the evenings and weekends to accommodate differing work schedules.

Please also provide the following:

- A. How many people currently serve on your board? Are there vacancies?
Currently 7 members serve on the LHiNC board. There are eight vacancies, as the bylaws call for a board comprising up to 15 members.
- B. Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year?
Approximately 20 people served on committees in the past year, though several hundred have attended committee meetings as concerned audience-members.
- C. How many people attended your annual meeting?
Approximately 80 people were in attendance for the annual meeting/board elections in October 2011.
- D. How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters or newspapers)?
Approximately 2,900 households receive the bi-monthly print newsletter, and 1,340 receive the monthly e-news.
- E. Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization?
The Linden Hills Festival draws around 3,000 people and operates with 140 or more volunteers. The Corn Feed sees approximately 400-500 in attendance.

4. *Financial Reports*

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

(Attached)

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?

LHiNC's community engagement activities related to the proposed Linden Corner project occupied a significant amount of time in 2011. Over 500 people attended the Open House in December of 2011, which required a significant effort to plan, coordinate, host and tabulate the results of the questionnaire. Based on this input, the LHiNC Board also prepared a formal statement that was submitted to the City's Zoning & Planning Committee. Interactions with the community were complicated by a lack of clarity regarding LHiNC's role in the review and approval process for commercial development proposals, which contributed to confusion and frustration for many residents.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

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

The information received from the City has been timely and concise.

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.

We receive adequate notice of City activities scheduled in the neighborhood.

4. *City Departments*

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

The City departments have been available when needed and function well in our neighborhood.

5. *City Assistance*

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

The NCR could improve the sharing of information and resources between neighborhood organizations.

6. *Other comments?*

We are generally pleased with our interactions with City departments.