

**Community Participation Program
2011 - 2012 Annual Report
Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization**

1. Accomplishments

Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization contracted with the Folwell Neighborhood Association in late 2000 for contract administration. As a result of twelve years of close association the neighborhood organizations have a strong partnership in many initiatives that benefit residents and northside residents. In May of 2011 a tornado blew through north Minneapolis leaving destruction that affected hundreds of families and dwellings. Webber-Camden (WCNO) joined the FNA in opening the doors with a clear commitment that the work was 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 22nd, WCNO 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.

For WCNO, the calendar of events for the period following the tornado and well into 2012 was modified with only the Truck Extravaganza, the winter skating events in Webber Park and the Annual meeting went on as usual. There was, and remains, a proliferation of meetings resulting in new collaborations that are struggling to find permanence among north Minneapolis neighborhoods including the Northside Neighborhoods Council. Community outreach neighborhood wide and block specific has been a primary activity. WCNO is part of the Bright Ideas campaign, currently supported by five other northside neighborhoods and outreach to connect with residents about what they think and truly believe are the best ideas that would benefit their neighborhood.

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 people returned to WCNO office for additional services and information. WCNO 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 30th the free fax and notary service that WCNO 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 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 eleven of a possible eleven Board Members**

Are there vacancies? **No.**

Approximately how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the last year? **Webber-Camden does not have standing committees. 68 people volunteered for special outreach activities in 2011 contributing 188 hours..**

How many people attended your annual meeting? **27 neighborhood residents**

How many households regularly receive your publications (such as newsletters, newspapers or electronic newsletters)? **1860**

Approximately how many people participate in other activities of the organization?

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.

WCNO participates in the 4th Precinct CARE Task Force and in Enough is Enough – No One Dies, a prevention and intervention initiative involving five other northside neighborhoods in response to the homicides that have occurred since summer of 2011.

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 WCNO 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 discussion in a regional setting such as the neighborhoods in north Minneapolis (NNC) would be helpful.

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