
Beltrami Neighborhood Council Application for CPP Funds 2011
Submitted 1/14/2011

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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BNC Board Approval 1-3-11	

Neighborhood Engagement

The neighborhood board and consultant organizer will door knock the entire neighborhood regarding the concerns and needs of the residents. Four times a year a newsletter will be delivered to every business and resident in the neighborhood. The invitation to participate in monthly meetings will be extended in five languages, Hmong, Spanish, Somali, French and English with the offer of an interpreter provided by NCR for the meetings. Any issues or concerns that are brought up at monthly meetings will be noted and included in the engagement proposal. A website is being developed and will feature articles requesting input. Businesses and landlords will be sent a survey and a follow up phone call to each will occur to get input from those stakeholders. The two churches in the neighborhood will be contacted and a request to speak to their board or parish council will provide an avenue for input from these community groups.

Regular Outreach in 2011

The neighborhood has two workshops scheduled for 2011 aimed at engaging as many people as possible. On March 21st BNC will host a Solar Hot Water Heating seminar at the Beltrami Park Building 1111 Summer St NE whereby residents can learn how to use the sun to heat their home water and a bulk purchasing program is being offered by Minnesota Renewable Energy Center to lower costs to residents interested in this innovation. In May BNC will host a Residential Energy Conservation workshop at the National Guard Armory at 1025 Broadway St NE whereby residents who attend will receive \$400 of energy efficient products and a free

home energy assessment sponsored by the Center for Energy and Environment. Beltrami was chosen for these programs because BNC promised to door knock the neighborhood to get the residents involved. At these workshops residents will be encouraged to join the neighborhood activities and to take part in other City sponsored programs. The community garden is also a great gathering spot for residents and each home will be notified of the garden plot lottery to be held this April 2011.

Under-represented Groups

There are thirteen residential blocks in Beltrami and every year flyers for the neighborhood wide election are delivered to each home and business inviting everyone to attend the May meeting. The community garden volunteers will also every home regarding the garden plot lottery. This year those flyers will have information printed in five languages. These five languages have been chosen because while there are a few Chinese, Pilipino, Lao, Palestinian, and Russian language speakers in the neighborhood, the majority speak one of these languages: English, Spanish, Somali, French or Hmong.

Board Diversity

The BNC board of directors currently has 10 members. The board make up includes: two tenants, one African American, one senior citizen, two disabled persons, one Native American, one senior citizen, two gay persons, and one director speaks English as a second language, five are men and five are women. The committees that report to the board are similarly representative of various sub-groups who live in the neighborhood. BNC will continue to pursue diversity in the community. BNC is seeking a business representative to be on the board. Business people regularly attend meetings but there is a business director vacancy at this time.

Planning Activities

The board has just completed the NPR Phase II plan for the neighborhood which included 146 residents input out of a total of approximately 480 families. As far as land use, the board continues to reach out to residents who wish to pursue a dog park on MNDOT land near the freeway. The housing committee will develop a housing improvement plan for board review. The crime solutions committee annually participates in the Community Policing Plan sponsored by the Police Department. The board recently attended a board training lead by Robert Thompson concerning strategic planning and will continue to pursue those directions in 2011.

Stakeholder Communication

BNC sends four newsletters out yearly to every neighborhood resident and business. Special first class mailings are sent to every address whenever there is a community wide opportunity for housing grants, loan, garden plots, or workshops. A volunteer is working on a website for the neighborhood this January. Email blasts regarding crime alerts, the Beltrami Festival, the movie in the Park, NNO, Art-A-Whirl or other activities of interest are sent to the 162 residents who have signed up to be on the email blast list. Google Groups is used to keep the garden

committee members informed about Homegrown Minneapolis actions and policy changes. The board is considering a Facebook account and a volunteer is being recruited to run this account.

Festivals and Events

BNC will host the Beltrami Festival with the Park and Recreation Board assistance on June 20th in the evening. One of the churches provides the food and volunteers to feed everyone. There are at least two workshops for all residents scheduled with a third composting workshop being considered for July 2011. There will be a movie in the park for the entire neighborhood after the NNO block club events come to an end on August 9th. There will be Community Garden harvest celebration in September. Members of the board and community are planning a fundraising “Tea” which will feature teas from many lands and cultures that are represented in the neighborhood, such as the Russian samovar service, and British high tea service, Chinese tea ritual and so on.

Other Information

Hunger is a real issue in Beltrami. Last year the BNC paid to have park staff at the building two hours a day four days a week during the summer so that the school board’s free lunches could be given out to the hungry children. Over 300 meals were served in this way last summer. (Beltrami Park building is closed year round even though it is designated as a recreation center due to Park Board budget constraints.) The garden committee is committed to providing produce to the hungry in the community. With only one half of the NRP funds this year Beltrami will not be able to provide the two hours a day of park staff time needed for the children’s lunches and craft time. The BNC board is looking for alternatives that may be more economical.

NCR/NCEC Assistance

Beltrami Neighborhood Council needs assistance with interpreters and translation of written materials to reach out to various groups. Any suggestions regarding resources for improving food security for Beltrami families would be greatly appreciated.

ESTIMATED BUDGET

Staff Expenses	\$0
Employee Benefits	\$0
Professional Services	\$25,008
Occupancy	\$1980
Communications/Outreach	\$2460
Supplies and Materials	\$1200
Festivals and events	\$450
Food and refreshments	\$250
Development	\$550
Fundraising	\$400
Other Services	\$100
TOTAL:	\$32,398