

Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Columbia Park Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Jane McCarney

Date of Board Approval: August 2012

1. **Stakeholder Involvement**

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2012, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2012?
 - *The CPNA is partnering with DoGoodBiz for printing and mailing to promote events to all who live and work in Columbia Park.*

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012?

- *By mail, door-to-door delivering, and website*

- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?
Yes. When mailed it went to all the residents and businesses in the neighborhood.

- What did not work so well? Why?

There was too much responsibility for one person to do most of the outreach efforts. More allocation of activities needs to be done to other individuals. There also needs to be more time devoted to sending information out by mail.

- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?

We met most of the people through meetings. 20-30 people attended our meetings.

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

6 people

- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

60 individuals participated

- How many people receive your print publications?

699 households and businesses

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

This can vary considering emails and website. Website is available to all residents that can access the internet and email list is roughly 30-40 households.

2. 2012 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

Elections

Not enough board members who were willing to take on opportunities that impact the neighborhood.

The CPNA was impacted by not having enough members.

A Newsletter asking for new members was delivered to the residents of Columbia Park to attract new members.

The CPNA gained 4 new board members and 4 people to participate in a task force for the replanting of the removal of trees and shrubs along University Avenue.

Puppet Show

The CPNA held a puppet show to attract families in the area and get together with the other residents in the neighborhood.

Families with children were mainly the ones who enjoyed the show.

The CPNA contacted In The Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre to present a puppet show in July. The CPNA signed a contract with the theatre. The CPNA rented the Columbia Park pavilion for the puppet show. Printed flyers and hand delivered them in the Columbia Park area. The flyers were also posted in libraries and parks of the upcoming event.

The turn-out was good. I think it may have been better if it was held on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon compared to a Wednesday evening. There were 12-15 children and 20-25 adults who attended.



3. 2012 Accomplishments

1. CPNA annual June picnic to engage the Columbia Park residents in getting to know the neighborhood and the Columbia Park Association. The cost to rent the Columbia Park Pavilion is \$125 dollars. It is a potluck and everyone brings food to share with one another.
2. April Earth Day – Was cancelled due to weather.
3. Puppet show presented by Anne Sawyer from the In the Heart of the Beast Puppet Theatre at the Columbia Park pavilion. The costs for the puppet show was \$408 for the show, pavilion rental was \$125, and the printing of the flyers was \$138. 10 -15 children and 20 adults attended the show.
4. Gateway Garden – engages the surrounding community to participate in gardening and gardening sessions. There would be cost associated hoses, water, and other needed equipment along with print flyers and delivering them to the residents.

The CPNA has also promoted the Alley Cat garden, which is a small neighborhood garden on the east side of Columbia Park.

5. The CPNA is partnering with DoGoodBiz for printing and mailing to promote events. A mailing list was purchased for \$50 to mail to all the residents and businesses in Columbia Park. A newsletter went out to get more members. The CPNA has co-chairs and 4 members.

Newsletters and postcards have been sent to promote events.

6. The co-chairs attended meetings with other neighborhood leaders to learn more about what other neighborhood groups are promoting and working on. Several members have been attending meetings with other groups, such as the Upper Mississippi River Front, the Recycling Center, and City meetings to inform the CPNA of progress.
7. The CPNA created a task force to work with MNDOT to replant the landscaping that was removed along University Avenue.
8. Plant swap in June was cancelled due to the cold spring with the copious rain fall that followed.

4. Housing

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?
10% of the organizations time toward housing. A CPNA member attended the 2PAC meeting related to problem properties. The website promotes housing loans and the community organizer provides the information to submit paperwork for small improvement loans for residents.

5. Financial Reports

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

See separate document.

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

1. *Impact*

What interactions with City departments occupied a major part of your time? What worked well? What could be improved?

- The recycling center was an issue for Columbia Park. The city shoved this down our throat and did not listen to the residents that it would impact traffic and lower livability of the residents who live in the vicinity. The city did provide a good building and landscaping plan that was an improvement to the building that is there.
- Attending 2PAC meetings to work with problem properties and individuals who have impacted the community. The meetings were run well.
- Working with MNDOT to replace the landscaping that was removed along the west-side University between 34th and 37th Avenues. It took some time to get this going and get everyone together to work on plan.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? ____4__

2. *City Communications - effectiveness*

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

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? __4__

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. For the most part there was adequate notification, but it was delivered through another chain of communication the same day or the day before the city activity.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the timeliness of communications from the City? __3+__

4. **City Departments**

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

They are providing more information than in the past.

5. **City Assistance**

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

The CPNA needs to partner more the Chamber of Commerce for assistance in Community relations and the NCR.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? 4

6. **Other comments?**