

Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Kenny Neighborhood Association _____

Contact person: Ruth Olson _____

Date of Board Approval: 3/19/2013 _____

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

- **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2012?**
 - KNA monthly meetings (10 meetings)
 - KNA Annual Meeting (1 meeting)
 - KNA Summerfest
 - 1st Annual Ice Cream Social
 - Kenny 365 Project
 - Quarterly print newsletter
 - Postcard mailings advertising upcoming events
 - Monthly E-newsletter delivered to 350+ subscribers
 - Periodic updates to KNA website, Facebook page, and Nextdoor Kenny
 - KNA website, Facebook page, Nextdoor Kenny, Kenny 365 and Kenny Summerfest sites all cross-linked to promote increased knowledge and traffic to all activities
 - Annual neighborhood-wide garage sales in May
 - Co-Sponsor of Kenny Park Earth Day Clean-Up
 - Welcome To Kenny Neighborhood Packet distribution to all new residents in the neighborhood
 - Kenny Treasures Awards (annual awards to honor local Kenny residents who are making a difference in the life of the neighborhood)
- **How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012?**

The most underrepresented population in Kenny Neighborhood continues to be senior citizens. We reach out to seniors through our TRUST (home chore service) Program. This program allows seniors the necessary help to maintain their homes and stay in the neighborhood. We are proud that this program helps the neighborhood maintain a multi-generational resident base. Also, by maintaining senior's homes, we strengthen the property values of all homes in the neighborhood.

We also reached out to the seniors of the neighborhood through our quarterly newsletter and the Ice Cream Social. The quarterly newsletter is sixteen pages in length and is mailed to every home in the neighborhood. It is through the newsletter that we can notify seniors of activities and services available in the neighborhood. Since some seniors have been slow to embrace the digital age, we feel strongly that the production of a printed newsletter is our most effective

outreach tool to that segment of the neighborhood population. The Ice Cream Social was a fun, community wide event which offered free ice cream, popcorn, lemonade and a concert by a local community band playing Pops Orchestra favorites and Marches by Sousa. Because this event was held at Kenny Park, it was easily accessible and had no cost— a frequent concern of seniors. The event had an “old fashioned” feel to it and appealed to all generations.

- **Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?**

As stated above, we find the newsletter to be our most successful tool because it is delivered to each and every residence in the neighborhood. We also found the annual Summerfest and the Ice Cream Social to be great opportunities for community engagement and neighborhood togetherness.

- **What did not work so well? Why?**

The Kenny Treasures recognition program has been around for many years. We have found that nominations for the awards have dwindled and are difficult to obtain. We are planning on taking a hiatus in 2013 and hope that there will be renewed interest in celebrating individual contributions in 2014.

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

We reached approximately 150 people through our monthly meetings, the Annual Meeting and through phone and/or e-mail contact.

- **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**

Approximately 125 individuals volunteered in organizational activities.

- **How many individuals participated in your organization’s activities?**

Approximately 2,000 individuals participated in activities- primarily at the Summerfest, the Ice Cream Social, the Annual Meeting and the garage sales. Although we know how many individuals hosted garage sales, it is difficult to gauge how many attended the sales.

- **How many people receive your print publications?**

Including other community organizations, approximately 1,800 people receive our print publications.

- **How many people receive your electronic communications?**

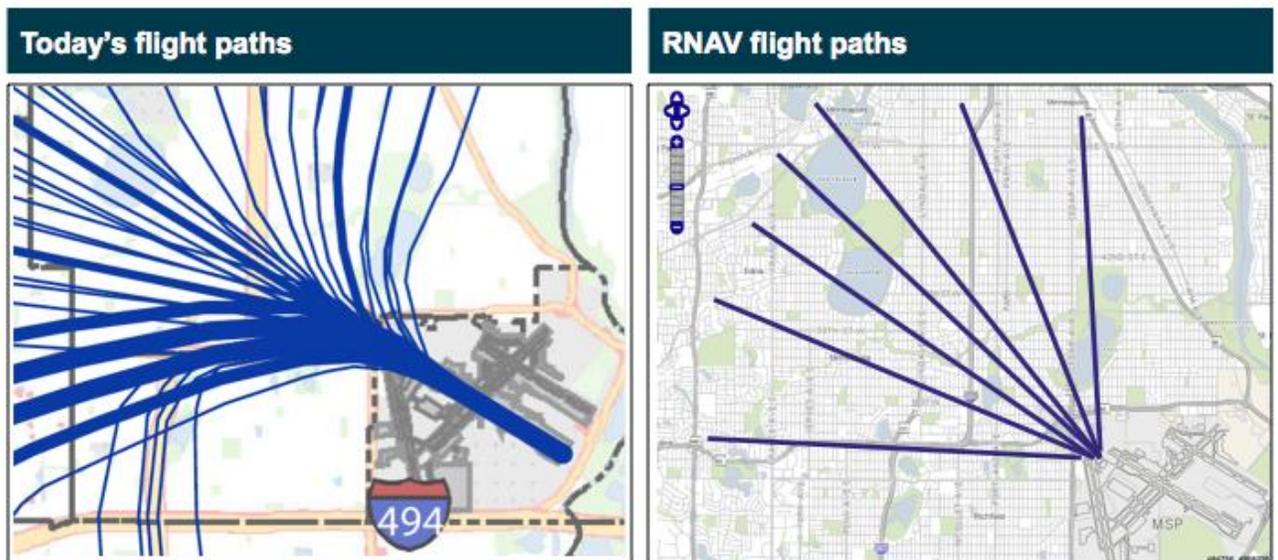
Approximately 350 people receive our electronic communications.

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?**
The FAA proposed to make changes to flight paths at MSP Airport for flights over SW Minneapolis.
- **Who was impacted?**
Every resident, business owner and student living, utilizing a business or attending Kenny or Anthony schools.
- **What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?**
KNA spearheaded and recruited members for an inter-neighborhood airport advocacy group. We have joined forces with 8 other neighborhoods and the City of Edina to address the proposal and future concerns. This group was formed in 2012 and began meeting in early 2013.
- **What was the outcome?**
The issue is ongoing and the outcome is to be determined.

2.1 | RNAV uses GPS and other technology to guide planes on tighter flight paths. Off Runways 30L/R, it would focus ~30 departure tracks into 7.



3. **2012 Accomplishments**

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012:

- **What were your organization's major accomplishments?**

KNA's other major accomplishments in 2012 were the reinvigoration of the NRP Housing Program and a cooperative plan between KNA, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Public Schools to add shade and a water source to the playground at Kenny Park.

- **How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**

The housing program allows individuals to maintain, upgrade or make energy-efficiency changes to their homes. This not only improves the individual home, but also improves the overall look of the street and strengthens property values. Every resident benefits from well-kept homes and increased property values.

The playground at Kenny Park has long been a less than optimally desired place for recreation due to its lack of shade and lack of a water fountain. KNA worked with Minneapolis Public Schools to install a water fountain on an exterior wall of Kenny Community School. This water fountain allows parents to keep their children in direct eye-sight when getting a drink of water. Previously, the only water source available was on the opposite side of the park building and was a safety concern to parents.

The playground is situated between the Kenny Park building and Kenny School. There is little to no shade because there are no mature trees in the area. KNA contracted with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to install three large shade structures in the playground and pool areas. This allows a shady spot for play and parental supervision. The project was completed in August, 2012 and immediately appreciated by residents.

4. *Housing*

What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?

Approximately 5% of staff time was spent on housing-related activities.

5. *Financial Reports*

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

See separate report.

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 majority of our time in interactions was spent with NCR, CPED and Minneapolis Park Board. Please see Question #5 for more feedback.

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? 3

2. *City Communications - effectiveness*

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

Yes, it is understandable. However, fine-tuning communications to neighborhood specific needs would be appreciated.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 3

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.

There were very few notices of Kenny specific activities (due to low activity). Those received appeared to be timely and appropriate. The Planning Activity Report is very useful and always received on a timely basis.

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? 4

4. *City Departments*

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

Better communication between departments would help. For instance, Public Works could better inform other departments of its plans.

5. ***City Assistance***

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

Contact with our assigned Specialist has been difficult. We have had to turn to other NCR Specialists or other City Departments for help.

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? 2

6. ***Other comments?***

For at least a decade, KNA has been planning on using NRP Phase I funds to support streetscape elements at 54th St. and Lyndale Ave. S. This streetscape enhancement was to be a cooperative effort between Kenny, Lynnhurst, Tangletown and Windom neighborhoods.

The road reconstruction was finally completed in 2012. We received budget estimates for the capital costs of the streetscape elements in a timely manner, but we have not been able to move forward with the plan due to the lack of response from Public Works. For over a year, the local Business Association requested maintenance budget estimates for a Special Services District to support any streetscape elements. At this writing (early 2013), the maintenance budget has still not been received and the likelihood of the project is in jeopardy. This is hugely disappointing to us as this was a major focus of our NRP spending in the past and in the future. The neighborhood strongly values the business district and puts a high priority to funding in that area.