

## Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Brock Hanson, SCNA Chairperson

Date of Board Approval: April 19<sup>th</sup>, 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?**

- ***Vacant School Proposed Demolition***

*The struggle to find a reuse or repurpose or demolition of the vacant Shingle Creek Elementary School continued in 2012. SCNA has a long history of advocacy for their neighborhood elementary school. SCNA's outreach kept residents informed through our monthly print and social media, by writing articles for the Camden Community News, posting and collecting survey comments on our website, holding monthly meetings and attending public hearings and testifying. SCNA in their formally City and neighborhood adopted NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan: Community Life Schools and School Grounds, SCNA residents identified retaining valuable public assets within the public realm as a key objective. Local television and newspapers also helped bring the issue to the forefront across the city.*

*SCNA worked with concerned residents in their first efforts to testify at the Heritage Preservation Commission public hearing. The HPC found some of the City prepared study findings compelling that the school may have historical significance. HPD approved an eighteen month study, however at the following Zoning and Planning meeting that decision was appealed by MPS and the appeal was granted. The MPS then had 180 days to strive to sell the property before demolishing the school if a buyer was not found. SCNA continued to advocate for the greatest repurposing of this school. Currently, as of April 2013 a potential buyer is rumored to have been found. However, nothing at this point has been concretely decided and the building continues to be an underutilized asset in the community and SCNA remains vigilant in advocating and keeping neighbors informed until the next public hearings arise.*

- ***Changing image of North Minneapolis one Bike Seat at a Time:***  
*When you get survey feedback like: "What did you like most about our community?" riders from outside the area responded "it's a hidden gem", "Diversity of areas and neighborhoods, parkways and park areas" and "the community pride". SCNA knows it's helping enhance the positive image of Shingle Creek neighborhood as the housing market*
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*recovery continues and families consider housing purchase decisions. The 6th Annual Tour de Camden is the only Aquatennial associated event on the Northside. Aquatennial Royalty with crowns and all attended our 2012 to give a grand send-off to the 50 participants as they trekked the twelve mile route through the seven neighborhoods of Camden. We continue to explore innovative ways to connect the event with youth safety training and providing helmets to youth and expansion of NiceRideMN to this area to help address the disparities of low income residents in our area.*

- ***Expanding Print and Social media:*** *SCNA expanded its social media presence in 2012 to from 112 to a total of 221 by working to including a separate Facebook pages for its annually hosted event Tour de Camden, utilizing an open group site and also a dedicated informational Facebook site. All three sites help us connect with neighbors and coordinate for our events. Our full color monthly newsletter has helped increase pride in the community and helped increase our board capacity bringing in four new board members in the spring of 2013.*
- ***Monthly meetings, advertising***  
*Along with new outreach efforts of forums and surveys at events, SCNA held 11 monthly meetings at the local Creekview park building and offered guest speakers to help resolve issues around livability and crime issues, foreclosures, park and youth programs, and engaging residents about city engagement activities. Council Member Johnson attended to inform residents about the City's budget. The Met Council gave an informational presentation on the new sewer interceptors coming to our neighborhood. The Northside Community Reinvestment Coalition attended to inform residents of home foreclosures processes residents go through and to help answer questions. And State Representative Joe Mullery came and educated residents on the work going on at the Capital and what it means for residents. We continue to see positive results and input by having our monthly advertising in the local newspaper, and social media outlets.*

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

***Youth:*** *SCNA Board member reached out to local Patrick Henry High School Tom Murray and began opening a dialogue to continue to build off the partnership SCNA has had with PHS for their Summer Environmental studies program that focuses on Shingle Creek. SCNA attended the Hmong New Year event in 2012 at PHS to learn firsthand about this important cultural festival and reported findings back to the board. SCNA also identified how they would like to interact with high school age youth by working to create an interactive community meal that recognizes youth for their work in our community and that values*

*their input in community decisions. We recently learned the long-time Shingle Creek Environmental work of PHS students funding was cut for the 2013 summer so we've begun working with PHS on finding solutions for this important program. Work also has recently begun to partner with Daren Johnson/MPS Summer School Coordinator and After School Facilitator for potential school/math/reading readiness and theatrical opportunities with three different schools to bring much needed supplies, promotional support, and physical support to these schools.*

**Renter's Forum:** *Starting in May 2012, as part of its CPP process, SCNA selected one of the several identified under-represented groups of: Youth, Elders, Disabled, Hmong, empty-nesters, GLBT, renters and landlords to try a new more targeted approach of outreach. It then hired a facilitator from Minnesota Technology of Participation (MNTop) Kellie Jones and using a Consensus Workshop method developed a renter's forum that was held in July 2012. SCNA had to build its own board capacity and first work through its own internal struggles with identifying and addressing challenges they had around this topic. They then identified expectations and anticipated outcomes for the forum. Through this process, SCNA grew and developed relationships with City departments such as the GIS, Planning, Problem Properties and Licensing departments.*

*Overall, SCNA targeted the 150 rental properties of the 1150 homes in the Shingle Creek neighborhood and created an educational and information resource forum that later participants were able to utilize to help them alleviate issues they'd been having with their landlords. While this under-represented group proves challenging to reach, this outreach effort was a success on many levels. In the initial research, SCNA learned that even other neighborhoods with a high percentage of renters had not held a dedicated renter's forum so there were limited best practice models to follow. After the forum, SCNA Board members did further outreach to other neighborhoods with findings from our renters forum. We continue to work with other neighborhoods and the NCR Department as they develop their outreach efforts to renters.*

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

*This year SCNA took a direct "face to face" approach in its outreach efforts looking to develop working relationships first with potential partners that will be able to help us with our outreach efforts to some of the underrepresented groups. This face to face approach has begun opening doors to identifying and bringing resources to address local community needs. It also has also helped build our board capacity by bringing in four new board members in 2013 and provides social and*

*community value by having board members as the direct “face” or link, rather than an email, website, or Facebook address.*

**What did not work so well? Why?** *Outreach to renters was a bit of a struggle. We chose a very busy summer evening when many family activities were occurring which may have kept attendance lower than anticipated. Most of the board members do not currently have children in school so it makes finding the right connections at schools a little more difficult. But we’re encouraged by the progresses that have been made and are being made in early 2013 as we push to complete our work by the end of 2013.*

**How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?** *In 2012, the eleven SCNA Board over the course of the year met face to face with an estimated 250 people about the issues facing the community with the proposed demolition of the school, the renters forum, SCNA events like Sliding Hill Extravaganza, SC Clean-up, Tour de Camden, Toys for Tots, and Holiday on 44<sup>th</sup> event, Patrick Henry High School and three other school outreach efforts, MPRB Creekview park staff and summer events, and our sponsored community garden volunteers.*

**How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?** *50*

**How many individuals participated in your organization’s activities?** *SCNA has approximately 2000 people who participate in other activities of the organization throughout the year.*

**How many people receive your print publications?** *1150 households and 3031 residents receive our monthly newsletter publication.*

**How many people receive your electronic communications?** *79*

**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 struggle to find a reuse or repurpose or demolition of the vacant Shingle Creek Elementary School continued in 2012. Over the years, SCNA has fought to keep the school open and viable in a community that as the SCNA Board Chair Brock Hanson states is “asset deprived”. SCNA’s Board Member Jeffrey Johnson, other board members and residents led several taskforce committees that researched and helped keep the doors open and children in the school on two separate occasions over the past decade. However, since closing the school, there’s been much skepticism that the Minneapolis Public School district (MPS) is acting in good faith in attempting to sell the property, especially when the “For Sale” sign doesn’t go up until 3-4 years after closing it and during the 180 day reprieve from demolition period granted by the City Council; when they have a dozen other empty buildings; and the lack of site maintenance and pre-demolition and abatement that has occurred by MPS at the site. SCNA is attempting to avoid having the potential loss of the school create schisms within the community or create further frustration of residents due to loss of a public asset within the neighborhood since 1958. SCNA remains vigilant in advocating for the greatest repurposing of this school building.*





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*Overall, SCNA targeted the 150 rental properties of the 1150 homes in the Shingle Creek neighborhood and created an educational and information resource forum that later participants were able to utilize to help them alleviate issues they'd been having with their landlords. While this under-represented group proves challenging to reach, this outreach effort was a success on many levels. In the initial research, SCNA learned that even other neighborhoods with a high percentage of renters had not held a dedicated renter's forum so there were limited best practice models to follow. After the forum SCNA Board members did outreach to other neighborhoods with findings from our renters forum.*

**Who was impacted?. *Shingle Creek Elementary School Proposed***

***Demolition*** *The 3031 residents of Shingle Creek are directly impacted by this proposed demolition. The 29,000 residents of the Camden area and the residents of the City of Minneapolis who fund the Minneapolis Public School district are directly impacted by this proposal.*

***Renter's Forum:*** *The 150 rental properties in our community were made aware of resources available to them that they might not be aware of by holding this initial forum. SCNA also discovered many new insights about itself as an organization and issues facing renters today.*

**What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?**

***Shingle Creek Elementary School*** *SCNA took steps to keep residents informed of the proposed demolition, the process and opportunities along the way to comment or take action through our newsletter, survey, direct one to one dialogues, and research of other schools across the country for potential other options to consider as best practices. A member conducted an external photo documentation of the Shingle Creek Elementary School site with photos posted to Facebook.*

***Renters Forum:*** *We researched and acquired information from the City regarding the current rental properties in our neighborhood. Developed goals for the forum and a plan for garnering information the best way possible in a fun manner. And we grew as an organization by learning about the issues facing renters today.*

**What was the outcome?**

***Shingle Creek Elementary School:***

*Residents stayed informed and were able to take action by either writing comment letters, testifying or contacting elected officials of their concerns or views. The uniquely designed school may have a potential buyer. We'll see what 2013 will bring with continued vigilance to find a repurpose for one of the very few community assets in a neighborhood.*

***Renters Forum:*** *The 150 rental properties have resources available to them that they might not be aware of so by holding this initial educational and informational forum, SCNA discovered many new insights about itself as an organization and issues facing renters today.*

### 3. 2012 Accomplishments

**Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012:**

**Community-wide Events Program:** *Our annual community-wide events are intended to promote our entire community as a positive place to live, work, and play to build and promote community.*

- **SCNA Shingle Creek Clean up** *The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency lists the Shingle Creek an impaired waterway due to high chloride levels from salt runoff during the winter months. SCNA's annually hosted clean-up event coincides with the city-wide City of Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Earth Day clean-up. Nearly 100 volunteers and many families attend from as far away as Eagan and Osseo. We bring in several educational tables including the MN Science Museum, Hennepin County Master Gardeners, and City of Minneapolis Public Works. We're also grateful to our key local supporter Owens Corning for their annual sponsorship.*
- **SCNA hosted its third annual Sliding Hill Event Celebrating** *On typically the coldest Saturday in January, another 50 neighbors congregated atop the Shingle Creek sledding hill. Amid the wintry fun, neighbors shared their concerns about crime, nearby drug house activity, the vacant school, and MPRB activities. SCNA contacted its CCP/Safe person to address the neighbors identified drug dealing and crime concerns and saw results. We also reopened dialogue with the Minneapolis School District about the fate of the vacant school.*
- **SCNA's Common Ground Community Garden:** *SC Common Ground Community Garden has 10 volunteers who maintain a double vacant lot at 52nd and Newton Ave N. The Common Ground garden participates in the City-wide Gardening Matters garden tour annually, and it also recently won a prestigious Minnesota Horticultural Society award.*
- **SCNA supports LBNA's Toys for Tots efforts and Holiday on 44** *SCNA is pleased to work with its partner; the Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Association by promoting and helping with outreach efforts to help 125 families with 350 children in need, and to distribute 700 toys to ensure a happier holiday season. SCNA tables and is proud to promote and support Holiday on 44<sup>th</sup> a fifteen-year tradition in the community with over 1000 attendees annually.*
- **NCEC Updates and Participation:** *SCNA continues to keep residents informed about the progresses of the NCR Department thorough the outreach of our NCEC Commissioner and SCNA Board member Jeff Strand monthly. SCNA continues to participate in the NCEC activities as much as volunteers and time allow.*



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

*SCNA's major accomplishments this year were growing as an organization through these outreach efforts. We have gained four new board members in 2013 that is an energetic shot in the arm for our organizations continued efforts. The board continues to value diversity to better reflect the community as a whole as we continue to increase diversity and participation.*

*The continued work to keep residents and the community informed and to work to find a repurpose for the Shingle Creek Elementary school.*

*In a slow recovery economy, SCNA's various home improvement loan and emergency loan programs had 6 loans issued in 2012 for a total of \$27,630.*

*Hosted the sixth Tour de Camden as the only Aquatennial event for the Northside is bragging rights in our book! Our event has broad advertising in the Startribune. We have growing local business support and the event continues to grow every year.*

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

*\*Creekview Park received \$300 worth of pool equipment to help with their growing swimming participants and lessons at the park.*

*\*Residents who attended the SCNA Renters forum gained enough education to address ongoing issues with their landlord and get them resolved.*

*\*12 Gardeners at the Common Ground Garden again had SCNA pay for their insurance, and water fees so they could not have to worry about undue burdens or costs as a small group of volunteers.*

*\*11 SCNA Board members gained organizational, communication, and evaluation skills by participating in the MTop training, planning, hosting, and evaluating of the Renters Forum.*

*\*350 Children received toys because SCNA worked with LBNA to distribute toys to children and families in need.*

*\*Shingle Creek has another ton of trash removed from its banks to help keep it as healthy as possible.*

*\*Residents gained information and skills in order to testify at a public hearing.*

**4. Housing**

**What percentage of time did your organization spend on housing-related activities?** *In 2012, 40% of SCNA's efforts were spent on holding a renter's forum, promoting our home improvement loans in our printed and social media, reviewing the current loan statuses*

**5. 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?

*Working to follow the work of the NCR department takes education and time. Understanding the role of the NCEC commission/ CPP program also takes time to educate the public. Attending City Council meetings and other NCEC meetings regarding this process to stay informed and educated on the aspects of the neighborhood programs, scope and work, to inform the community and then look to collect feedback to provide feedback for the NCEC commissioners and NCR Department takes time when dealing with volunteers rather than full or part-time employees.*

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? *The information received from the City is understandable and useful as it can be for a department and program that is still being developed as evidenced in the six month priority changes. Having timely information and continuing to communicate always helps with the effectiveness of any programs.*

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. *SCNA received notices of City activities. The notification of the program income changes were not sent in a timely manner and had very little opportunity for citizen participation and engagement on such an important issue.*

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?   2  

**4. City Departments**

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood? *City departments need to continue to give neighborhoods 45 day notice to allow for adequate educational time, any committee work and*

*neighborhood notification time needed. City departments also need to continue to recognize and value the benefit of community participation and input as potential cost-saving, historical capturing, and various other values that citizens can generate regarding potential neighborhood projects.*

**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 NCR department needs to continually remember and recognize that the neighborhood organizations are volunteers rather FT or PT paid employees. They are not city departments but nonprofit organizations that meet once a month generally. They can accomplish much but need more time to accomplish goals. Time at the neighborhood level continues to move much more slowly. We look forward to continued working with our NCR Specialist and the NCR Department in 2013.*

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? N/A**