

Community Participation Program



2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: **Windom Community Council**

Contact person: Amanda Vallone, WCC Coordinator

Date of Board Approval: Thursday, September 12 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?

- WCC continued its work on building the community garden space on 61st & Nicollet Ave.

The Windom Community Garden's mission is to create a gardening space that provides opportunities for people to grow their own food, increase healthy activity, get to know their neighbors, learn from each other and create a productive and beautiful commons in an urban area.

The goals of the Windom Community Garden include:

1. Growing healthy produce for families in the community
 2. Providing an educational opportunity for children
 3. Provides gardening opportunity for townhome and apartment residents without yards for home gardening.
 4. Will foster a sense of community among a diverse, transient population.
- 2012 communications outreach included 3 printed Windom Newsletters that were mailed to each Windom resident; two postcard mailings (Annual Meeting in May & Windom Festival in August) and the Windom Neighborhood facebook page. The newsletter continues to be successful in sharing the neighborhood's concerns, developments and offering businesses to advertise their services and residents a chance to write articles or share recipes.
 - WCC carried out the following 2012 neighborhood events that included:
 1. Tots Rock – March 2012 – a dance party for children ages 6 months to 7years which provides families with a safe, all inclusive opportunity to socialize with neighbors while spending time together. Event attendance: 102 families
 2. Windom Festival – August 2012 – a neighborhood celebration that highlights the diverse population of residents and unique cultural businesses in the neighborhood. This event takes place at the Windom Dual Spanish Immersion School and Windom Community Center partnering with the school, the park and many local businesses makes this event a huge community success. Event attendance: 350 people

3. Crime & Safety Informative Forum – September 2012 – WCC hosted an informative meeting and invited Amy Lavendar, Crime Prevention Specialist & Matt Clark, 5th Precinct Chief and Council Member John Quincy to speak about safety tips and how to effectively work with the MPD. Event attendance: 92
4. Experience 54th & Lyndale Avenue – October 2012 – WCC partnered up with NEHBA for the Lyndale Bridge opening by hosting a scavenger hunt as part of the community activities at the celebration. Event Attendance – 450
5. Windom Walkers Watch – November 2012 – WCC's newly formed Safety Committee met at Bobby & Steve's for their 1st evening walking event. Coffee and cookies were provided by the Chevy Grille and a walking route was provided. Event Attendance – 8
6. Windom Reads – December 2012 – Planning for the first ever Windom Reads event which WCC partnered with Windom Spanish Dual Immersion School & Mpls Park & Recreation Board. The event was planned for Feb. 2013. Local authors, bilingual storytelling, book making Creation Station and snacks were part of this event.

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

1. Actively communicating with property management of the four apartment complexes that Windom houses and providing them with neighborhood event posters to promote community happenings on their bulletin boards.
2. Mailing the Windom Newsletter to all Windom residents and hand delivering to all Windom businesses in the area.
3. Partnering with the Windom Spanish Dual Immersion School to translate event fliers to be sent home with Spanish speaking students.
4. Partnering with the Windom Community Center and the Mpls Park and Recreation Board in offering senior activities and dining options.
5. Engaging renters in the Windom Gables townhomes to assist in the planning and implementing of the newly formed Windom Community Garden.

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

1. WCC found that creating a Windom Neighborhood facebook page worked extremely well engaging the twenty to forty year olds in the community. The page has been a useful resource for community residents to share resources, ideas and discuss important issues.
2. Walking from block party to block party on National Night Out was also another successful strategy that WCC used to hand out upcoming event information and a neighborhood survey.
3. Reaching out to the senior residents who do not use the computer via the old fashion telephone worked well to update them on important meetings and events that they could attend.
4. Postcard mailings to all residential homes and posting event posters at Windom apartment buildings.

What did not work so well? Why?

1. Lack of volunteers kept our Windom Community website from being properly updated with current and informative community happenings. It is currently being redesigned to a more user friendly format.

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

The WCC reached about 200 people through meetings, one-on-ones and neighborhood walks.

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

Windom Community Council had approximately 60 individuals volunteer throughout the 2012 year at various community events.

How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

Throughout the 2012 year approximately 850 individuals participated in WCC events.

How many people receive your print publications?

The Windom Community Newsletter is mailed to 2100 individual homes and an additional 100 Newsletters are hand delivered to Windom businesses and other organizations.

How many people receive your electronic communications?

In the year 2012 approximately 250 receive electronic communications.

2. 2012 Highlights

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

- What was the issue or opportunity the neighborhood was facing? The Windom South neighborhood had seen an increase in mobile drug dealing and robberies in the last year. There was also an increase in crime that was happening at the two hotel locations on Lyndale Ave. S. (Metro Inn & Aqua City)
- Who was impacted? The residents in the homes nearby as well as the motel owners were impacted by the increase in crime.
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity? The Windom Community Council organized a community meeting with Crime Prevention Specialist, Amy Lavender, 5th Precinct Chief, Matt Clark and Ward 11 Council Member, John Quincy. 94 Windom residents attended this meeting where concerns were raised, crime prevention tips shared and resolutions were discussed. The meeting was a great opportunity for neighbors to connect with other neighbors in regards to safety while providing Windom residents the resources and platform to ask questions about 911 and 311 call processing.
- What was the outcome? After the Safety & Crime Awareness meeting was held there were a few positive outcomes that occurred. **1.** A Safety Committee was formed that organized its first Windom Walkers Watch event. The mission of this monthly event was to choose a business location to meet & greet, then to walk a predetermined route to create a presence that Windom residents are watching out for crime. These walks alternate routes, times of day and days of the week. **2.** The city initiated a multi-jurisdictional meeting with licenses, health, inspections and police to investigate whether the motels are upholding their business license conditions that were put into place in 2002. The Windom neighborhood will be asking residents input on updating these conditions in the next year. **3.** The motel owners met with the Windom Community Council to listen to the neighborhood's concerns and have since taken action by installing a better security system, continuing to staff an overnight security officer and have made themselves available to discuss any future resident concerns.



Windom Walkers Watch Club at Bobby & Steve's Auto World on 58th & Nicollet Ave. S.

3. *2012 Accomplishments*

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

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?

TOTS ROCK, which is a dance party for children ages 6 months to 8 years provides families with a safe, all inclusive opportunity to socialize with neighbors while spending time together. This event took place on Saturday, March 26th and brought in more than 75 families.

This is the 6th year the Windom Community Council has hosted this event and the 2nd year we have partnered up with the Windom South Park to co host the event. The Windom Dual Spanish Immersion housed in the same building also contributed to the event by creating a bilingual flyer that went home to all school families.

In addition to dancing to a live DJ, bubbles blow near the dance floor, temporary tattoos and blow up guitars, there is a "chill" room with books, a craft and coloring station, and bean bags/cushions for lounging. The variety of activities is intended to keep children engaged and entertained while giving parents the opportunity to enjoy their children in a new environment as well as meet other parents in the community. The main intention of this event is to build a sense of community for families in our neighborhoods with young children and to introduce more community members to local resources and businesses.

The main intention of this event is to build a sense of community for families in our neighborhoods with young children. This event gives the council and local businesses exposure, both inside and outside of the neighborhood as entities that take pride in our relationship with the community center and our residents. In addition, by keeping the entrance fee at a minimum, we will reach a broad socioeconomic audience and provide an all-inclusive venue for neighbors to meet. This is a safe event for children and families with a number of educational components included, thereby fulfilling our neighborhood vision.

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

This annual event has impacted many Windom families by establishing a sense of community and creating neighborly bonds amongst residents with young children. Many play dates and other community gatherings were formed from this event.

Each year we invite different Windom businesses to participate in this event by creating a hands-on station for families to create something to take home or do something together. For example, Uncommon Gardens offered a Spring Planting Station that families could plant a few seeds in a container to take home for the season. This impacts the businesses by giving them a chance to connect with their local community outside of their business location.

The families of the Windom Spanish Immersion School have also been impacted by seeing that the Windom Community Council & Windom South Park (Mpls Park & Recreation Board) work together and include the Windom School in all community activities throughout the year.



WINDOM COMMUNITY CENTER, 5843 WENTWORTH AVE. S. MINNEAPOLIS

WINDOM SOUTH

TOTS ROCK

DANCE PARTY

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2012
4:00-7:00PM

FOR KIDS AGES 6 MONTHS TO 8 YEARS

LIVE DJ / ROCK STAR MAKE OVERS /
PHOTO SHOOT / VIP BACK STAGE MEAL DEALS / CREATION STATION

PROUD SPONSORS:



BECOME A FAN OF TOTS ROCK



4. *Housing*

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

WCC spent about 10% of time on housing related issues. The organization sees that increasing a bit in the near future as we plan to begin marketing our housing loan & grant programs with CEE.

5. *Financial Reports*

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

*Please see attached report from Windom Treasurer, Kim Dalnes

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?

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?

- Council Member John Quincy's monthly newsletter is a great tool to keep us informed about the many City programs, activities and informative information for our Ward.
- The NCR's Minneapolis In Touch monthly email blast is another wonderful tool that provides a comprehensive list of community events and projects happening within the neighborhoods.
- The communications regarding the Single Sort recycling was easy to read and very informative.
- Many of the public hearing notifications are very cryptic and require follow up and require follow up from the neighborhoods to determine if this is an issue that should be addressed.

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? Yes.

If not, did your organization inform somebody at the City of this? Did the City respond in a positive manner? The Windom Community Council has been happy with how the city has handled situations that have been brought to their attention.

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? City Departments can continue to communicate clearly and timely on the many projects happening within the city so that residents are not surprised.

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 Dept. can continue to provide specific topic workshops that neighborhood groups can attend in order to continue the community engagement efforts in our neighborhoods.

- As in the NUSA Conference's it would be wonderful if the NCR Department or the NCEC could plan monthly Neighborhood Pride Tours in which Mpls neighbors could participate in and discover all of our amazingly unique neighborhoods and showcase some community projects in progress. Neighborhoods could submit an application request to be selected as a Neighborhood Pride Tour and the entire community could be invited out to tour this neighborhood over a weekend. By offering these "Neighborhood Pride Tours" monthly Mpls residents can get to explore what other neighborhoods are doing to better their community. Neighborhood businesses will get an opportunity to be introduced to other Mpls residents that may have never known about their business. This would be an opportunity for great community engagement and give our neighborhoods a chance to shine in the spotlight.

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?*

WCC want to acknowledge and recognize our Neighborhood Specialist, Robert Thompson. He has been extremely informative and helpful in guiding us through the CPP guidelines in the last year. Robert has met with the Executive Board members and provided information at our monthly board meetings as well as assisted with understanding the new financial processes of NRP and CPP funding.