

## Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Deb Schirber

Date of Board Approval:

May 7, 2014

### **1. Stakeholder Involvement**

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2013, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?

*A large part of our outreach was done through our two events, KiteFest and the East Harriet Annual Meeting and Neighborhood Block Party. The first annual Neighborhood Block party followed the annual meeting and included a food truck, games and activities for kids, and provided residents an opportunity to meet several candidates running for Mayoral and City Council offices.*

*East Harriet also participated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in the Open Streets event on Lyndale serving hot dogs and lemonade to event goers. Other events include sponsoring Earth Day cleanup at Lake Harriet, Sale-O-Rama, a garage sale event coordinated by EHFNA and held a household hazardous waste event in our neighborhood in collaboration with several southwest neighborhoods.*

*East Harriet organized and hosted meetings for the proposed restaurant development at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale and the upcoming Met Council sewer work that will run through East Harriet parks and residential streets. Follow-up communications regarding the projects were included in our eNews, facebook and website.*

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2013?

*A 5 X 7 postcard was mailed to all residents promoting the Annual Meeting and Neighborhood Block Party in October. This was followed up by volunteers delivering door-hangers to all homes/apartment buildings in East Harriet a week before the annual meeting and Neighborhood block party.*

*All of our board and committee meetings are held at Walker Methodist providing neighborhood exposure to the senior facility and easy access for the seniors to attend our meetings.*

*East Harriet communicates and promotes VOA Southwest Senior Center activities and announcements in our eNews and website. We also rent office space in this building which keeps us in close contact with their staff.*

*One of our largest underrepresented groups is renters. EHFNA continues to develop strategies to connect with renters to get their feedback about the neighborhood and identify ways to improve engagement and EHFNA added a renter as a board member during this past year. In addition, our neighborhood annual meeting/block party is an example of how East Harriet has reached out to renters.*

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

*KiteFest continues to be a popular event for both neighborhood and area residents drawing 4000 attendees. The event is a successful collaboration between Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), East Harriet, Linden Hills, MN Kite Society, the DNR, Tips Outdoors and local business sponsorship.*

*The EHFNA board and committee members enjoy their involvement in the Open Streets now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. The event covers 1 mile of our eastern neighborhood border on Lyndale Ave and provides EHFNA an additional opportunity to reach out to our residents in a high visibility venue. The Board is available to answer questions about the neighborhood organization and sign up residents interested in receiving our eNews and for volunteering.*

*East Harriet decided to eliminate the RoseFest event and focus on increasing the annual meeting attendance and renter involvement in neighborhood events. The idea of a Neighborhood Block Party following the annual meeting was created. Although there was much to be learned in the first year, turnout was good and the board and volunteers are looking forward to planning this event again next year.*

- What did not work so well? Why?

*There is not one thing that can be identified as not working in 2013. However, there is opportunity to improve on increasing the number of volunteers and finding ways to engage renters and seniors living in our neighborhood.*

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

*Monthly Board Meetings – a dozen or more*

*Monthly Committee Meetings – two dozen*

*Meetings on special issues (restaurant development project at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale and Met Council Sewer Project) - 250*

***1800 Door Hangers were distributed to all homes/apartment buildings for the annual meeting and neighborhood block party.***

***Board and committee members are on hand at events including Open Streets and Annual Meeting to discuss and answer questions about EHFNA board, committees and project currently in progress.***

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

*60*

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

*500 – Annual meeting, Block Party, Sale-O-Rama, Community Meetings, Forums  
Open Streets – Difficult to capture a number. Several thousand people from surrounding areas participant in this event  
KiteFest, an area event that East Harriet co-hosts attract over 3000*

- How many people receive your print publications?

*East Harriet sends out a monthly electronic newsletter. We do not publish a printed newsletter*

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

***East Harriet eNews has 635 email subscribers  
Facebook has 221 followers***

## 2. 2013 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?

### ***Proposed Restaurant Development at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale***

*The project included two lots, one zoned commercial (corner lot) and one zoned residential (between a residential home and the commercial lot). The project design called for the residential lot to be rezoned as commercial to satisfy the requirement by the City for 13 off street parking spots. This would allow the restaurant building sitting on the commercial lot to be built out to the sidewalk making it pedestrian friendly.*

*Rezoning the residential lot required 75% of the affected neighbors (within 100' of the project) to sign off on changing the zoning to commercial. The neighbors refused due to concern over the late closing hours, increased noise that is related to a restaurant & outdoor patio, and to the additional bright lights created by the parking lot and cars coming and going into the lot.*

*The Board and Housing, Zoning and Business Committee organized and hosted a community meeting with the architect, developer, and CM Tuthill to give residents an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions and voice their concerns. .*

*CM Tuthill and Glidden worked with the developer/restaurant owner and the affected neighbors to come to an agreement on the hours and landscaping to protect neighbors from potential late night noise and parking lot and car lights.*

*Ongoing follow-up communications regarding updates were circulated through EHFNA's eNews, website and Facebook page.*

**NOTE:** *Understandably, affected neighbors, those within 100', had legitimate concerns. East Harriet also received comments from many neighborhood residents expressing excitement for a neighborhood restaurant, something East Harriet currently does not have since Java Jacks closed.*

*East Harriet decided to forgo RoseFest this year and put our efforts towards increasing neighborhood presence at the annual meeting. EHFNA organized and sponsored the first Annual Neighborhood Block Party following our annual meeting in October. Despite threatening weather, the event was successful and we are already in the planning stages for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Neighborhood Block Party to take place this fall.*

### **3. 2013 Accomplishments**

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

#### *Parks Environment & School Committee (PES)*

- *Co-hosts the annual Earth Day Clean Up at Lake Harriet with Linden Hills and MPRB.*
- *Collaborate with Kingfield, ECCO, CARAG and Hennepin County to host a household hazardous waste collection event in our neighborhood to educate residents about how to safely and properly dispose of unwanted garden & household hazardous waste at a convenient location.*
- *Support the Lyndale Community School by communicating their events and achievements through EHFNA's eNews and website.*
- *Worked with the Audubon Society and Linden Hills Neighborhood to support and protect the Thomas Sadler Robert's Bird Sanctuary management plan, proposed trail improvements and capital improvement program opportunities.*
- *Co hosted two City Council Member candidate forums on environmental issues.*

*EHFNA continues to support the business community in our neighborhood and the surrounding area of southwest Minneapolis. The Board feels it is crucial to the vitality of the neighborhood to have a vibrant business community. Local businesses benefit by receiving Minneapolis Great Streets Business Façade Improvement Grants from both EHFNA and the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association.*

*The Crime, Safety, Transportation and Noise Committee (CSTN) participated in the MSP FairSkies Coalition, a group composed of representatives from southwest Minneapolis neighborhood associations. The focus of the group is to promote community engagement on airport-related issues impacting the neighborhoods.*

**4. Housing**

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

***Four hours a month are spent on housing activities***

**5. Financial Reports**

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

***Report sent separately***

**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?

*Most of our interaction is with NCR, Council Member's office and Minneapolis Parks.*

*NCR – A lot of board meeting time was spent completing CPP and NPP Plans, budgets and annual reports and then getting the board's input and approval. Having to complete only one CPP plan for a three year period (2014-2016) is a big improvement and will save board time. Robert Thompson and Bob Cooper are very helpful and respond in a timely manner on all matters concerning NRP questions.*

*CM Tuthill or her staff attended all of our monthly meetings providing updates and information on City issues. Her office was always available and responsive to questions and requests for information.*

*East Harriet also interacts with the MPRB on several projects including Bird Sanctuary Management Plan and the Heffelfinger Fountain repairs.*

*Our Crime & Safety committee chair has positive interaction with the Minneapolis Police Dept. 5<sup>th</sup> precinct including the crime specialist.*

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?

*Communication from CM Tuthill's office, MPRB and MPD 5<sup>th</sup> precinct affecting our neighborhood was helpful in getting the information out to residents.*

*General information from NCR is good.*

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.

*We do receive a Planning Application Report which is helpful to know what type of building projects are planned for the neighborhood.*

*The MPD and CPS are very good at communicating crime reports, prevention tips and MPD sponsored events.*

On a scale of 1 to5, 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?

*We did not have much interaction with City departments this past year. I have subscribed to the city facebook and email notices. I receive traffic, snow emergency and parking alerts in a timely manner.*

**City Assistance**

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

*It would be beneficial have the NCR staff member attend one or two East Harriet meetings a year to review and answer questions about NRP strategies and CPP and Neighborhood Priority Plans.*

On a scale of 1 to5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? \_\_\_\_4\_\_

**5. Other comments?**