

Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Fulton Neighborhood Association (FNA) _____

Contact person: Ruth Olson _____

Date of Board Approval: 3/12/2014 _____

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

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

- Community Creek Walk
- Creek Corridor Feedback Outreach
- Several community meetings focused on high impact neighborhood issues (RNAV, stadium lights, parking issues, etc.)
- Ward 13 Candidate Forum
- Community Garage Sales (combined with Lynnhurst neighborhood)
- Fulton Fall Festival
- 7th Annual BLEND Awards
- Dedicated information table each week at the Fulton Farmers Market for outreach and volunteer recruitment
- 8th Annual Fabulous Fulton Plant Sale
- Friends of Fulton Awards
- Monthly FNA meetings
- FNA Annual Meeting
- Bi-monthly newsletter delivered to 2600 residents and businesses
- Monthly E-newsletter delivered to 700+ subscribers
- FNA website
- FNA Facebook Page
- Nextdoor Fulton
- FNA Housing Loan Program
- FNA Information Sign
- FNA Block Contact List
- Welcome Packet Distribution
- FNA Business Directory
- FNA Zoning Committee

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

FNA identifies renters as an under-represented community in Fulton neighborhood. As renters tend to be younger in age and more technology based, we have increased our outreach efforts on our website and social media sites to make them more aware of neighborhood events/issues. We hosted several community meetings discussing community-wide issues that would affect homeowners and renters alike.

- **Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?**
 The new social networking site, Nextdoor Fulton, has continued to be a useful tool to carry on neighborhood conversations. This allows us to see what is important to residents and what they are “talking” about. We can then respond with any information and/or resources the neighborhood association has available. The Fulton Farmers Market, Fulton Fall Festival and bi-monthly newsletter also continue to be very effective methods to reach residents. We have also brought in speakers or other interested parties when holding community meetings to allow for the best and most up-to-date information.
- **What did not work so well? Why?**
 The Fulton Facebook page sees little activity due to other social media platforms. The informational sign, although visible from the busiest street in the neighborhood, does not seem to attract attention.
- **How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?**
 We reached approximately 600 people through our monthly meetings, the Annual Meeting and through phone and/or e-mail contact.
- **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**
 Approximately 175 individuals volunteered in organizational activities.
- **How many individuals participated in your organization’s activities?**
 Approximately 28,000 people participated activities of the organization (this includes the Farmers Market (1000 people per week), Plant Sale, Festival and other smaller activities).
- **How many people receive your print publications?**
 2600 residents and businesses receive our print publications.
- **How many people receive your electronic communications?**
 Approximately 700 people receive our electronic E-news. Another 1,000 receive notices via Facebook or Nextdoor Fulton.

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?**

Fulton and Lynnhurst neighborhoods began working together in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to gather feedback about potential improvements to the Minnehaha Creek Corridor.

- **Who was impacted?**

Potentially, every resident in Fulton and Lynnhurst neighborhoods and other people visiting the Creek.

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

FNA and Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association (LYNAS) reached out to residents at the Fulton Farmers Market, through feedback boards placed along the creek, at Summer Festivals, through electronic methods and organized a Community Creek Walk in October.

- **What was the outcome?**

We have gathered hundreds of comments, concerns, ideas and suggestions for potential improvements on the Creek Corridor. Over twenty residents attended a group walk in October to see in person the areas under discussion. A survey and Community Meeting will take place in 2014.



3. **2013 Accomplishments**

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:

- **What were your organization's major accomplishments?**
 - FNA has been very active in engaging the community on issues of concern. We have been proactive in scheduling meetings to allow residents a chance to get more information, ask questions, state concerns and find ways to address the issues at hand.
 - FNA worked with all six other neighborhood associations in Ward 13 and co-sponsored a Candidate Forum prior to the November election.

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

FNA has been successful in helping to create a multi-neighborhood group, MSP FairSkies, to address concerns about proposed changes to departures at MSP Airport. Although the issue of RNAV is ongoing, initial work done by neighborhood representatives has gotten the attention of local, state and federal representatives.

FNA was also instrumental in providing a forum for discussions about stadium lights and parking pressures in the neighborhood. This has led to the neighborhood considering a Small Area Plan.

Having all seven neighborhood associations working together to organize, promote and execute the Ward 13 Candidate Forum showed great cooperation and outreach for the benefit of the entire community.

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).

Please 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 majority of our time in interactions was spent with NCR, CPED and Minneapolis Park Board.

We have received exceptional communication from the Minneapolis Police Department. We find their communications to be very important to the neighborhood and appreciate the partnership they offer Fulton. In particular, CPS Amy Lavender has been instrumental in sharing valuable time and resources with Fulton neighborhood. We are sorry to lose Amy to another position within MPD, but look forward to the same level of interaction with our new CPS, Jennifer Waisanen.

We also appreciate the level of expertise and effectiveness of communications with our NCR Specialist, Stacy Sorenson.

Furthermore, we appreciate the communication with Bob Cooper and Judy Duffey at CPED; they are always open to discussing issues and coming up with necessary information and solutions to issues.

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?

Yes, but many times it is more information than we need in certain areas and less than we need in others. Fine-tuning the information to each specific neighborhood would be helpful.

We appreciate the weekly Zoning Application Reports and use them as a way to track development in the neighborhood.

Again, the effectiveness of communications from CPS Amy Lavender is quite high. She provides us with useful information and community resources and responds quickly to requests for further information.

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.

This is difficult to answer as there aren't a great number of City activities in Fulton. We do receive good notice of any Minneapolis Police meetings, etc. We also receive timely notices from Public Works in regard to road and/or utility projects and from CPED in regard to variance and permit requests.

We continue to struggle to get consistent and timely information regarding public art opportunities.

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?

Better communication between departments would help. For example, Public Works could better communicate its plans with other departments.

5. ***City Assistance***

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

We have a great relationship with our NCR Specialist, Stacy Sorenson. Stacy always responds quickly to phone calls and e-mails and passes along relevant information. We feel very lucky to have Stacy and appreciate her attention to detail and service to her neighborhoods.

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? 5

6. ***Other comments?***