

**2013 Community Participation Program
Neighborhood Annual Report Form
September 2012-December 2013**

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)
Jana L. Metge, Coordinator
Gary Gliem, CLPC Board Chair
Board Approval: December 5th, 2013

Outreach and Engagement Activities in 2013:

CLPC does Outreach & Engagement with all that we do.

Monthly Livability Meeting -

8-25 participants per month depending on topics. Partners in this meeting are: CPP safe, MPD, St Stephens street outreach, Community Prosecutor, Minneapolis DID, HN County Attorney.

Monthly Land Use meetings -

10-35 participants, again depending upon topic. Outreach is done specifically to adjacent owners on land use issues, as well as the community as a whole.

Monthly Property Owners meetings - Average attendance is 12-15 property owners.

Loring Business Association - this is a great venue to network with businesses and organizations. Usual attendance is 50+ businesses at these meetings. Unfortunately, the Loring Business Association held no meetings in 2013.

Nicollet Avenue Safety Coalition - Spring through Fall meetings/8 meetings held in 2013. Attendance ranges (again, per topic) from 8-30 participants.

Master Plan Public Hearing - 36 stakeholders attended the Public Hearing to approve the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan. Organizations, condo owners, renters, businesses, Emerson School, property owners, MCTC were all represented at the approval hearing.

Community Issues meetings -

- Sidewalk Repair / 10 folks involved
- Parking loss / 4 properties, organizations, and one church involved. 22 people.
- Cattail Removal / a core group of 8 has been put together working with Senator Dibble on this task.
- Magellan Development / a notification email goes out with updates on the Construction, by the Construction Manager. This email list contains 100+ email contacts developed and gathered through outreach!

Community Events - We have three (3) established categories of Event Involvement - Promote:

- Basilica Block Party
- Loring Park Garden Work Day
- MPRB activities at Loring Park
- Loring Park Garden kick off
- MCTC Events & Activities
- Neighborhood business community activities & events
- Loring Greenway Association / Music on the Greenway

Sponsor:

- PRIDE Festival - CLPC & Friends of Loring Park have an Information Booth
- Loring Park Art Festival - CLPC & Friends have an Information Booth.
- Loring Park Art Festival Artists Breakfast / CLPC sponsors and puts on
- National Night Out is co-sponsored with The Woman's Club of Minneapolis / 500 in attendance - 8 on planning team

Initiate:

- **Loring Park Acoustic Music Festival - 400** in attendance throughout the day, **30** volunteers. Bands selected to perform have a connection to the Loring Park neighborhood as a way to attract residents to attend. **You Tube video** available at **Loring Park Music Festival 2013**. This is now growing to be a city wide event in attendance.
- **Aquatennial Pre parade Party** - Originally Initiated by CLPC, now a strong partnership between CLPC, Friends of Loring Park, and MPRB/Loring Park. This is a city wide event and is an official Associated Aquatennial Event. 10 volunteers and MPRB Youthline run the event. Attendance was approximated at **350** in Attendance. **You Tube Video** available at **Loring Park Pre Parade party 2013**.
- **Winter Fest** was 1st initiated by CLPC as Winter Solstice, then it evolved to "Light up Loring" and then to Winter Festival. Volunteer team of 8, partnership of CLPC, Friends of Loring Park, and MPRB/Loring Park. Attendance approximated at **100** in attendance. A **You Tube video** is online at **Loring Park WinterFest 2013**.
- **Neighborhood Curry Dinner & Holiday Party** is hosted, donated, and put on by World Mission Prayer League. Beginning as an event for Board & Committee volunteers, it has grown to a neighborhood event with attendance of **150+ annually**. There is a donation jar and funds raised go to Park programs that we sponsor.
- **"Love Loring"** is an Annual Fundraiser & Silent Auction featuring live, local music and hosted by The Woman's Club of Minneapolis. We did not have this event in 2013. A team of eight (8) eight volunteers organize this and in past years, it was attended by 110 folks.

Three (3) new items were initiated by the CLPC Livability Committee to enable additional neighborhood outreach -

- **Elders' Wisdom & Children's song**, a project by Larry Long and Community Celebration of Place. Students from Emerson School interviewed Dr. Josie Johnson. These interviews were turned into a song and students are planning a celebration & recognition ceremony for Loring Park Resident, Dr. Josie Johnson. The song will be premiered at that time. **The Event has been set for 1-2:00 on May 23rd, 2014 at Emerson School.**
- **Senior Dance Social** - this event was the brainchild of Loring Park Director in partnership with in-house Kairos Dance Troupe and CLPC. One dance was conducted in 2013 with direct neighborhood outreach conducted to Senior buildings. Approximately **60** in attendance.
- **'La Guadalupana'** - was intentionally set up as an outreach to our neighborhood Latino schools and organizations. This project was initiated by The Basilica in partnership with the Neighborhood. In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre were contracted to conduct play & puppet making workshops, develop and produce the play. **It was a sell out!** Great project.

Outreach to Under Represented communities:

Renters -

- CLPC hosted a Neighborhood Nite Out at Loring Kitchen & Bar - **26** attended.
- CLPC strengthened their Partnership with Friends of Loring Park and coordinated priorities to work on projects together. Many of the Volunteers for Friends of Loring Park rent in our community
- Created a monthly E Newsletter and focus on building that data base from all names we gather at outreach events & activities.
- We continue to struggle with ways to conduct outreach and involve our Elder Russian Speaking population. We will continue to explore new avenues of approve in 2014.

MCTC -

- CLPC Coordinator serves on the MCTC Community Development and Community Organizing Advisory Committee
- Student Senate is posted on all CLPC committee meetings and student clubs connect to CLPC projects.
- CLPC participated in the 2013 Sustainability Fair.
- CLPC is presently working on a Violence Prevention initiative featuring a rally to be held May 1st, 2014.
- Students and professors participate in our community meetings and committees and events.
- We have graduated MCTC students coming back to volunteer with events.
- We have had 3 students on our board now over the past 4 years.

Challenges in 2012-2013:

We relocated our office 2x between 2012-2013. That was challenging with regard to forwarding mail, city notices sent to the correct address, funders having correct information. It also caused unpredicted expenses in hiring movers, changing letterhead & envelopes, and making new business cards. It was a challenge to work out of boxes, and still to this day, finding the time to reorganize, sort and file.

We had an Audit. Which went fine and Mike Wilson was great to work with. Both myself and our Audit Committee had a fine experience with him. But, this took unpredicted staff time as well, which together with the office moves, made unpacking, sorting, and reorganizing difficult to find staff time for. Thank you to Bob Cooper, who assisted with offering Office Space when there were times at the first location moved to we were without power, water, heat and it became an unworkable situation. Thanks to Mr. Cooper and zip drives, we completed our programs, meetings, and events!

But, *THE hardest thing for us in 2013*, was the illness and then unpredicted death of our Board Chair and former Treasurer, Gary Gliem. A terrible thing and great sadness for all.

City Department Partnerships:

Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Department - there is ongoing concern and many times frustration about MPRB protecting our \$1.5 million dollar dedication of NRP Phase 1 dollars to revitalize the park. Cattails have taken over the lakes/destroying the native vegetation installed at the time of revitalization, paths are breaking up, we have not seen capital improvement funding for our park in the MPRB budget.

Most importantly, we have had 8 Park Directors in 12 Years! It is near to impossible to grow park programming and keep on M & R issues with this rapid staff turn over and lack of continuity. It is extremely frustrating. This appears to be a good policy discussion with Park Administration and Commissioners.

City Department Partnerships:

City Planning - disappointed that the planning department priorities made the neighborhood wait for a year after approval of the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan to BEGIN a rezoning study which is legally required after the approval of a small area plan. Now we are again in a situation of reacting to a development proposal on Loring Hill after 6 years of completing 3 plans - Loring Hill guidelines, NRP Phase II, and our Small Area Plan.

Public Works - A lot of time was spent taking incoming resident and organization calls when sidewalks were closed and parking taken away for sidewalk repair and repaving. There was no neighborhood notification but for property owners, maybe. We are a high rental neighborhood with limited off street parking. Many buildings, having been built in streetcar days, have no parking onsite. So, street parking availability is crucial. Planning for alternative parking uses takes notice.

This led to a board motion: **"That the Neighborhood Community Relations Department be contacted to work with CLPC to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration.**

In 2014, the Public Works department and their consultants have been extremely communicative on two large projects, one in 2014 and one in 2015. The Hennepin Ave repaving project (around the Basilica and MCTC) has had 3 meetings and city staff have worked closely with neighborhood staff to coordinate. In 2015, there is federal funding for Hennepin/Lyndale Re-Construction project. The city staff and consultant team met with neighborhood staff to develop the first public Open House, held at the Walker Art Center, to gather community feedback on this project.

NUSA 2013 - The neighborhood had a City-wide planning team which worked on Conference Planning from September of 2011 through December 2013. Additionally, the neighborhood had a team of 18 (residents, organizations, and businesses) working on a Neighborhood Tour. A member of this Team was the Basilica. The Basilica arranged documents and we sent in "Guided Tours of the Basilica" information for the NUSA program. Neither the Basilica information nor the Loring Park Neighborhood Tour were included in the program. The Loring Park Tour was a walking Tour and would have cost the City no money. We applied for this Tour in September 2013, but the stated Conference deadline. The NCR Department not only did not publicize our Tour, but violated a commitment in the City Council NUSA Partnership Agreement and an agreement by Mr. Rubedor with the CLPC Board of Directors. After all of the neighborhood volunteer time on this, there was zero attendance by conference attendees, because it was neither advertised at the Conference, included in the "Tour Room" which promoted all of the other Tours, nor included in the Conference Program. Again, this was after NCR Director David Rubedor told the CLPC Board that we would be doing a tour and that 'as the Host neighborhood' (by a Scope of Service and City Council action) and we would get 1-2 program pages to promote CLPC. He also told CLPC that we could write and proof the program contact about CLPC. We were not given that opportunity and what was indeed written by NCR staff for the Conference booklet, disgusted active neighborhood residents involved in the NUSA planning. Several neighborhood residents and organizations attended the Conference. CLPC also had a display table. The entire experience was extremely disappointing to those involved and has affected a trust level with the NCR Department.

What can the NCR Department do to help Neighborhoods?

NCR can help by finding non competitive project funding, similar to NRP funding, as promised when NCR was being developed. Additionally, Loring Park is still awaiting full payback of the \$270,000 of NRP Phase II funding approved by city council then taken

away from us by December 2010 council action and given to those neighborhoods who had already spent their NRP Phase II dollars. Robert Lilligren had proposed that these funds would be repaid to neighborhoods they were taken from. *We hope we do not lose this with Robert now not in office. With an agenda of equity and justice, this would appear to me to be a priority of the NCR Department.*

2013 Highlights & Accomplishments:

- Completion and approval of the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan

- A Successful Series of Community Events, in Partnership with Friends of Loring Park and the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board.

- Creation of an Organizational Facebook Page created by a MCTC Student.

- Creation of an Organizational Newsletter

- Surviving the NUSA Confusion and Disappointments

- Creation of the Nicollet Avenue Safety Coalition

Housing:

Citizens for a Loring Park Community had both a Master Plan Steering Committee, as well as a monthly Land Use Committee. Completing the Neighborhood's Small Area Plan was a big priority for volunteers and boardmembers. It is estimated that these two (2) items, along with land use, zoning, licensing applications in 2013 ran between 55-60% of the Organization's Board and Staff time. Volunteer time, on the other hand ran via numbers at 55-60% on Events and Outreach Activities.

City Departments: One suggestion to be made is that the *Heritage Preservation Commission* and the *City Planning Commission* be trained in the **"Principles of Community Engagement"** as approved by City Council. When residents, businesses, and organizations take the time to attend a Public Meeting, they should be heard. It may be a matter of Agenda Management vs. not allowing the tax payers of the City of Minneapolis to speak when they have taking the time from their personal lives and businesses to attend a Public Hearing.

This has been the experience of Loring Park residents more than once and has been witnessed as happening to other meeting attendees as well. This appears to be a matter of public trust, violation of public trust, when neighborhoods are asked to conduct outreach and get folks involved at the City level and then when they get there, they are not heard. *To be true to equity and justice issues*, as well as the **"Principles of Community Engagement"** this issue should really be addressed. Turning people away from having their voices heard is *not only disrespectful*, especially after folks have taking off of work and maybe even hired a babysitter, *but it sends a strong message that there opinion is not welcomed in the City of Minneapolis.*