

**Community Participation Program
2013 Annual Report**

Neighborhood Organization: Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization

Contact person: Roberta Englund, Executive Director

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Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization
 Meetings and Event Information
 January 2013 – December 2013

**Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization
 Meetings/Events/Office Volunteer Information-Office Services**

DATE	EVENT	Volunteers Cancelled	Volunteer Hours
4.20.13	Earth Day		
8.16.13	National Night Out	19 NNO Events	
8.10.13	Truck Extravaganza	15	46
Monthly	Board of Directors Meeting	Members 107	200
Monthly	Board of Directors Meeting	Guests 48	93

Partnership Events with Folwell Neighborhood

4.23.13	Senior Resource Fair	6	21
9.2.13	Victory Labor Day Race	14	43
9.21.13	Open Streets/Harvest Fest	6	14
11.2.13	Senior Leaf Rake	NA	NA
Total Partnership Hours			78

Office Resident Services

April – December 2013	Fax, Copy, Notary	213 residents	
In Office Volunteer Hours			104.5

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

By sharing information through block contacts, one on one communications, and at community events. The largest underrepresented group in Webber-Camden neighborhood is tenants and Asian residents. The senior population is concentrated in MPHA Senior housing at Hamilton Manor. Scattered site seniors are reached through the Senior Resource Fair and the Senior Leaf Rake. WCNO also does NIP referrals for several senior residents for home work and services and those contacts continue throughout the year. We connect with the Hmong and other Asian populations through HMAA, Patrick Henry High School and the Lions Leos Club in volunteer activities.

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

Working with the Hmong youth at Patrick Henry High School and HMAA is the most consistent way to communicate and partner on community projects.

- What did not work so well? Why?

NA

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

800 - 1000

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

343

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

Over 2000

- How many people receive your print publications?

Folwell does not distribute a print based newsletter. When there are public events or special meetings, depending on the purpose, flyer distribution can be between 300 to 1500 units for each event.

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

The e-mail contact list now exceeds 600 direct contacts. Neither the website nor the FaceBook page is accurately measured due to the wide range of topics.

1. 2013 Highlights

**Annual Report
Webber-Camden Neighborhood Organization
October 2012 - November 2013**

This year has been anything but “business as usual” for Webber-Camden neighborhood or the Organization. In January the office flooded and froze us out for two months, reopening in April. The Webber Park Library building experienced a structural collapse and was closed forever, Webber Park became the park that wasn’t for much of the year as the pond was obliterated to make way for a natural swimming hole that will cost 16 M dollars and the parking lot was destroyed to make way for one much larger. The Northside Street Race didn’t happen when the 4th Precinct MPD made the decision to hold their own party to celebrate Police Week at the SOC – WCNO did support that event with hotdogs and chips while abandoning the race to a revitalized format in partnership with Patrick Henry High School in May of 2014.

The Webber Park Master Plan that was adopted in 2011 as expected curtailed WCNO sponsored activities in the park due to anticipated construction. WCNO did sponsor the Truck Extravaganza in August, this year staged at Folwell Park with hundreds in attendance. The event, which was hugely successful also identified at least one neighborhood in proximity to Folwell Park with the same animosity toward the event as at least one Webber-Camden resident! Happy kids, happy Dads, happy trucks drivers – one angry neighbor – it’s the honk offs that bring out the worst in folks in Webber, it’s the sound system that did it in Folwell!

In 2013 there were no tornados. There are still some houses beyond salvage that are waiting to be demolished – but none of them did meet the wrecking ball and the lots are now the subject of resident desire to play in the dirt and grow food. Minneapolis continues the acquisition for demolition as funds become available. There are eight to ten houses in the neighborhood that remain damaged.

Annual events: This was the year that all of the winter events were cancelled due to weather and the condition of the pond. WCNO and Folwell partnered in Come Home to Camden events to present the 4th Ward Senior Luncheon and Resource Fair and the 10th Community Picnic at the Victory Race sponsored by the MDRA. Earth Day events were cancelled by the MPRB due to weather. Open Streets and the Lowry Harvest Fest on September 21st were hugely successful with more than 7500 people attending.

2013 was a year of very little progress in the business and economic environment of Webber-Camden neighborhood; the Camden Mart continues to flourish, the Hennepin County owned building at 44th and Humboldt continues to decay – unused. There is no new coffee shop at 42nd and Lyndale with the space remaining vacant, which is also true of 4140-46 Fremont because of a Gordon Gekko variety California investor. 2014 better be a year of progress!!

2014 has to be a year of moving forward. The housing market is stabilizing and there are glimmers of increased resident communication and participation in the life of the neighborhood. Virtual block clubs are proving successful as people connectors in real time and there are indications that there are good reasons to look at strengthening

communication with neighborhoods that have common interests and develop common goals. These alliances would need to be sustainable affiliations to ensure that the participating neighborhoods are engaged and will really work together to influence both planning and development.

2. *Financial Reports*

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?

We work with multiple city agencies, most often with Regulatory Services and Fire as related to multi family housing, Animal Control, NCR and the City Council (4th Ward).

Our relationship with city agencies has been positive and helpful.

On a scale of 1 to5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate your overall experience with your interactions with the City? 5

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

95% of the time communication is understandable and useful. When it is not we ask questions.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 5

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.

Yes.

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? 5

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

They need to be responsive to specific requests in a timely manner specifically related to housing issues.

The city departments we have interaction with are usually functional and helpful.

Yes.

5. *City Assistance*

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

NCR has always been receptive to our requests.

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?***