

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Armatage Neighborhood Association

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Date of Board Approval: July 14, 2015

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2014, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?
 - Worked on growing our Facebook group to over 300 members.
 - Decided to return to a printed newsletter that would be delivered to every resident with emphasis on safety, in support of our NPP goals.
 - Continued delivery of Welcome Packets to new residents.
 - Hosted community discussions regarding local issues such as the 58th/Upton traffic circle meetings and a community crime prevention and safety seminar.
 - Held monthly, annual and special meetings, partnering with our local garden store, Wagners, to host our Annual Meeting with special speakers focused on bees and the Minnehaha Creek.
 - Put on our annual Summer Festival and area garage sales.
 - Supported park events such as Family Skate Night, Movie in the Park and the annual Halloween party.

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?
 - We felt that we'd lost touch with certain residents since the shift to an electronic newsletter and reliance on email and social media. To regain those connections, as well as engage new residents, we elected to use some of our CPP funds to re-imagine our neighborhood newsletter. This newsletter is full-color, delivered to every resident.
 - We continued to use the Southwest Journal, and their flyer program, to share information about our association and activities. This allows us to reach residents in our neighborhood and neighboring areas.
 - Have worked to strengthen our support and involvement in the Park activities with the new supervisor, and added a budget line to help them hold community events that appeal to a variety of ages and interests.

- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?
 - Hosting the Annual Meeting in May at Wagners proved very successful, and drew a decent audience.

- What did not work so well? Why?
 - Despite greater than normal attendance, we had lower than normal donation support for our Summer Festival. We feel this is primarily due to a scheduling conflict with our Coordinator's family vacation combined with the lack of delegation of responsibilities to the Board. Because of this, we have decided to focus on committee creation to help support this event and other areas of key interest such as safety and community engagement.

- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?
 - Approximately 250 through new resident Welcome Packets and meeting interactions.

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?
 - Approximately 60

- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?
 - Approximately 2,000, primarily from great Summer Festival attendance.

- How many people receive your print publications?
 - All residents

- How many people receive your electronic communications?
 - Email list of 610 people
 - Facebook group of 290 people
 - Twitter of 9 followers

2. 2014 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?

Safety was the prime issue of concern expressed by residents and became the focus for our NPP plan. Even though Armatage is not a high crime area, we take the continued safety and livability of our neighborhood seriously. When a resident was the victim of a violent crime this spring, people came in droves to our meeting (with more than 65 neighbors in attendance).

The ANA had invited Inspector Todd Loining (MPD, 5th Precinct Commander); Adam Tomczik (Assistant Hennepin County Attorney); Lisa Eder (Victim/Witness Unit for Hennepin County Attorney's Office) and Jennifer Waisenen (Crime Prevention Specialist) to be present. It was clear that this incident affected friends of the victim, but also all residents who felt their personal safety jeopardized by this crime in our neighborhood. As a result, we encouraged neighbors to complete Personal Impact Statements which many residents submitted to the County Attorney.

We also were coincidentally hosting our personal safety seminar less than one week from the night of this meeting. We had great attendance at this seminar and those who were able to attend received great information and tips for maintaining their personal safety.

The result of these efforts was to help neighbors regain their sense of security and empowerment and know that they are able to make a difference in keeping Armatage as a great part of Minneapolis.

(Due to the unexpectedly high meeting attendance and the presence of the media – both TV and newspaper – we failed to photograph this event.)

Another local issue has been the development of Upton Avenue as it has become a bike boulevard as well as had a history of speed concerns. Besides opportunities throughout our regular meetings to get updates and voice opinions and concerns, we hosted a special meeting to specifically address just these concerns, inviting area residents. Through our neighborhood input, speed bumps were removed from consideration and we saw the addition yield signs.

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

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

The results of our 2013 survey really helped us focus on the top priority of safety during 2014. We feel this has resonated with residents and encouraged increased interest in attending meetings, following the neighborhood in social media and reading our regular newsletter.

The personal safety seminar in the spring was a practical way we could help residents learn how to help themselves. We have tried to make our local officials and safety leaders available to our neighbors by inviting them to our meetings where people can ask questions, learn how to get involved, and hopefully leave feeling like they matter in Armatage, that we look out for each other, and that it is concerned, caring neighbors that make our neighborhood great.

2014 also saw a very strong turn-out for our Summer Festival. This bringing together of our community is truly becoming a favorite tradition that we look forward to expanding to include activities to further interest even more residents to participate.

4. Housing

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

2014 saw us researching options for our funds as programs were changing/closing, in particular the funds related to CEE and GHMC. After much investigation, and renewed interest in home loan programs, we decided to put effort in 2015 for the creation of a rejuvenated home loan program in cooperation with GHMC.

5. Financial Reports

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

Please see separate report.

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 worked closely with Michelle Chavez, especially regarding budget issues, and she is very helpful and responsive.

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? 5

2. ***City Communications - effectiveness***

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

Yes. If you sign up for the right emails, you are able to stay very informed. We also are fortunate to maintain a good relationship with our City Council member.

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.

For the most part. There is so much information, however, that it can be hard to keep track of all the moving parts, especially with frequent updates/last minute changes to meeting agendas, dates and times. When we do have issues, we have found people to be very responsive.

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? 5

4. ***City Departments***

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

None noted.

5. ***City Assistance***

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

None noted.

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?***

We haven't had a lot of needs, but when we do have questions, we have had good experiences with city staff/departments.