

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Bryant Neighborhood Organization

Contact person: Nina Soffer

Date of Board Approval:4/7/2015

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?

- 4 newsletters went out that were bilingual
- 2 Community meetings
- Facebook postings
- Updating our website
- MN Sure sign up events
- SUN Participation
- Worked with Seward Co-op to begin a mutual benefits agreement
- Worked with City of Mpls to get two houses moved from the Seward Development
- Secured a site for a community garden
- Developed a community governance committee for the community garden
- Hired Reggie Prim as a contractor
- Annual Report
- Fliers for Events in English and Spanish
- Door knocking for Events
- With SUN we reached out to Regulatory Services to help rectify some lapses in inspections in larger Apartment Buildings
- With SUN we reached out to MPRB to get a better grasp of their master plan and to let them know of our concerns at local parks in terms of staffing and funding as well as lack of communication
- With SUN we reached out to our City Council Members of regulations/ inspections of Larger Apartment Buildings
- With SUN we reached out to NCEC
- Worked with the 38th and Chicago Business Association for festivals and work on the 38th street corridor
- Co- sponsored many events including a couple on immigration reform and insurance information.

How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?

This year we advertised meetings in the MSR, put a flier in the Southside Pride, Newsletter was bilingual, Door knocking with Fluent Spanish speakers, MN Sure

event with translators. We also used Billboard signage and advertised events with other SUN participant organizations.

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

We did not find any to be an outstanding change in turn out at events. The community Garden has had a very consistent turn out of people and they have all been dedicated.

What did not work so well? Why?

We still get a smaller turn out to events than we wish.

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

We have reached out to over 150 people through these activities.

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

We have had over 20 volunteers

How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

We have reached over 300 individuals in our activities

How many people receive your print publications?

Our mailing list is 1050

How many people receive your electronic communications?

We currently have 255 Facebook members and we do not have an electronic newsletter as yet. We are gathering email addresses of our residents at this time. We do publish our newsletter on our website.

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?

After the Seward coop said they were opening a new coop in Bryant, we had many meetings and realized there were broad concerns around gentrification, the Bryant neighborhood took the lead on finding out the desires of our residents and worked to secure moving of houses versus demolition from the development site. This was a very long process involving CPED, GMHC, and the BNO to find good lots, determining which houses were suitable, figuring out how to move a house coordinating with the Seward coops deadlines, costs for the projects etc. We looked at many sites in the surrounding area. Though the BNO wished for a house move to occur in Bryant, there were no appropriate lots found. Both houses were moved into the Central neighborhood on 35th and Columbus and on 35th & Chicago Avenue South. The BNO was proud to make these moves happen; the houses will be sold to low income families and will help keep some of the housing stock affordable into the future. Both houses will be rehabbed this spring.

Out of the house moving process a lot on the corner of 39th and Columbus Avenue South that has been vacant for more than a decade and owned by public works was deemed un-developable due to a high water table. The BNO had asked to lease this lot over three years to use it as a community garden. We were turned down multiple times. Well, once we were told a house could not be moved there, we enlisted the help of Council Member Glidden's office and were granted access to the lot.

We are planning to start our community garden this spring and have a committed group of residents who will be the governance committee and have been working diligently to get this going. We have heard from our Phase 2 plan that a community garden was wanted.

We are hoping it is a bridge between renters and homeowners as well as a place for all our residents will work hand in hand to grow produce for their family and neighbors.

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?***

- Movies in the Park- We had the film in Spanish with English subtitles
- Hosmer Library Programming- including their world music and film series, farmers market and more.
- Connected with inner city tennis and working to establish some programming this side of the highway
- More outlets for information and more consistent information delivered
- Housing loans through NRP funds with GMHC
- Strong relationship with our city council member Elizabeth Glidden
- Greater connection with CPED- due to house moves and Seward development
- Strong working relationship with the boys and girls club
- Strong working relationship with PAC
- Strong working relationship with MPRB
- Hired Lissa Jones as a consultant
- Entrepreneur work shop for youth at the boys and girls club
- Working out a deal with the boys and girls club to have community access to a room.
- Fun at Phelps Annual Event
- Funding for Back in the Days
- Established a great ideas grant

We are working hard to re-vision the BNO and serving our resident's needs. Our collaborative work is strong and focuses on the larger needs of all our residents and the way the neighborhood organization interacts with City entities. Our loan programs for rehab work are still functioning and intact. We are one of a few organizations that still have these funds to help our residents. We have been working diligently to get to the table with the Seward Coop to strengthen our neighborhood by trying to keep as many dollars local as possible. We anticipate this can be accomplished by hiring from within the community, trying to diversify the store so it is a comfortable place for all our residents to shop. We are consistently sharing information on what the BNO is doing and interesting things going on in the area.

4. *Housing*

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

10 %

5. *Financial Reports*

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

See separate sheet.

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 a lot with CPED on the house move. It went pretty smoothly.

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? **_2_____**

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

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

Often times, there is too much info and how to sort what is of greatest importance is difficult.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? **_2_____**

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 got an email last week on the 12th of March letting us know this report is due on the 16th. That is not too timely.

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?

The question should really be about specific departments or individuals because the city is so broad. You have excellent staff and poor staff.

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 barely see from the NCR staff and rarely seek assistance. Bob Cooper and Judy Duffy are excellent resources and they are excellent at their jobs and responding in a respectful and timely manner

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? 2

6. *Other comments?*



House prepped for moving from the Seward Friendship Co-op development.



House prepped for moving from the Seward Friendship Co-op development



Fun at Phelps bike giveaway. 2014



Fun at Phelps 2014



Fun at Phelps- Residents checking out the birds of prey from the Raptor Center. 2014



The great horned owl from the Raptor Center. 2014