

## **Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report**

Neighborhood Organization: East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Deb Schirber

Date of Board Approval:

### **1. Stakeholder Involvement**

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

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

*A large part of our outreach was done through our two events, KiteFest and the East Harriet Annual Meeting and Neighborhood Block Party.*

*Lake Harriet KiteFest continues to grow in attendance each year to become one the most popular Minneapolis winter events. East Harriet has been involved in this event since its beginning 13 years ago and plays a major role in coordinating with Minneapolis Parks to plan the festival in addition to contacting and securing vendors and sponsors.*

*The second annual Neighborhood Block party followed the annual meeting and included two food trucks, games and activities for kids, live music by East Harriet residents and provided residents an opportunity to interact with several local organizations.*

*East Harriet also participated for the 4th year in the Open Streets event on Lyndale serving hot dogs and lemonade to event goers. Other events include sponsoring Earth Day cleanup at Lake Harriet, Sale-O-Rama, and a garage sale event coordinated by EHFNA*

*Communicated and participated in continued meetings and updates on the proposed restaurant development at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale, the Met Council sewer work that will run through East Harriet Parks and residential streets and the W 36<sup>th</sup> Street Bike Path from Lake Calhoun to Bryant. Follow-up communications regarding the projects were included in our eNews, facebook and website.*

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

*A 5 X 7 postcard was mailed to all residents promoting the Annual Meeting and Neighborhood Block Party in September. This was followed up by volunteers delivering door-hangers to all homes/apartment buildings in East Harriet a week before the annual meeting and Neighborhood block party.*

*All of our board and committee meetings are held at Walker Methodist providing neighborhood exposure to the senior facility and easy access for the seniors to attend our meetings. Recently, we connected with Walker Community Relations Manager who*

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*has become involved in the neighborhood by attending our meetings and volunteering for our events.*

*East Harriet communicates and promotes VOA Southwest Senior Center activities and announcements in our eNews and website. We also rent office space in this building which keeps us in close contact with their staff.*

*East Harriet assisted with the cost of the Senior Center newsletter by paying for the printing and mailing of few hundred additional newsletters to be sent to East Harriet residents 65 and over. Additional newsletters were printed and distributed at our Neighborhood Block Party.*

*A large underrepresented group is renters. EHFNA continues to develop strategies to connect with renters to get their feedback about the neighborhood and identify ways to improve engagement. A current board member and neighborhood renter who has served for the past three years continues to bring that perspective to our organization. Our neighborhood annual meeting/block party is an example of how East Harriet has reached out to renters.*

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

*KiteFest continues to be a popular event for both neighborhood and area residents drawing over 4000 attendees. The event is a successful collaboration between Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB), East Harriet, Linden Hills, MN Kite Society, Tips Outdoors, and local business sponsorship.*

*The EHFNA board and committee members enjoy their involvement in the Open Streets now in its 4<sup>th</sup> year. The event covers 1 mile of our eastern neighborhood border on Lyndale Ave and provides EHFNA an additional opportunity to reach out to our residents in a high visibility venue. The Board is available to answer questions about the neighborhood organization and sign up residents interested in receiving our eNews and for volunteering.*

*East Harriet decided two years ago to focus on increasing the annual meeting attendance and renter involvement in neighborhood events. Our second year turned out to be very successful with a larger turnout than the first year. A new volunteer committee was formed after the first event. Planning has already begun for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual block party. We anticipate another attendance growth next year as residents look forward to this annual neighborhood event.*

- What did not work so well? Why?

*Our organization considers all of our events worked in 2014. However, there is opportunity to improve on increasing the number of volunteers and finding ways to engage renters and seniors living in our neighborhood.*

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

*Monthly Board Meetings - 12 or more*

*Monthly Committee Meetings – 24*

*Follow-up meetings on special issues (restaurant development project at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale , Planned W36th St Bike Path between Dupont/Kings Hwy & Bryant on , Met Council Sewer Project) - 150*

*1900 Door Hangers were distributed to all homes/apartment buildings for the annual meeting and neighborhood block party.*

*Board and committee members are on hand at events including Open Streets and Annual Meeting to discuss and answer questions about EHFNA board, committees and project currently in progress.*

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

*70*

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

*700– Annual meeting, Block Party, Sale-O-Rama, Community Meetings, Forums  
Open Streets – Difficult to capture a number. Several thousand people from surrounding areas participant in this event  
KiteFest, an area event that East Harriet co-hosts attract over 4000*

- How many people receive your print publications?

*East Harriet sends out a monthly electronic newsletter. We do not publish a printed newsletter*

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

*East Harriet eNews has 681 email subscribers  
Facebook has 259 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?

### ***Proposed Restaurant Development at 40<sup>th</sup> & Lyndale***

*The restaurant project began over a year ago and has continued beyond its original completion date by over a year. There was a long lull in the construction and little communication from the owner. The neighborhood was anxious to see progress with the construction of the neighborhood restaurant.*

*East Harriet worked with CM Bender's office throughout the year to get updates on the required permits. By the end of the year, construction picked up and a neighborhood public meeting for the alcohol permits was being planned for January 2015.*

#### ***Background:***

*The project included two lots, one zoned commercial (corner lot) and one zoned residential (between a residential home and the commercial lot). The project design called for the residential lot to be rezoned as commercial to satisfy the requirement by the City for 13 off street parking spots. This would allow the restaurant building sitting on the commercial lot to be built out to the sidewalk making it pedestrian friendly.*

*Rezoning the residential lot required 75% of the affected neighbors (within 100' of the project) to sign off on changing the zoning to commercial. The neighbors refused due to concern over the late closing hours, increased noise that is related to a restaurant & outdoor patio, and to the additional bright lights created by the parking lot and cars coming and going into the lot.*

*The Board and Housing, Zoning, and Business Committee organized and hosted a community meeting with the architect, developer, and CM Tuthill to give residents an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions, and voice their concerns. .*

*CM Tuthill and Glidden worked with the developer/restaurant owner and the affected neighbors to come to an agreement on the hours and landscaping to protect neighbors from potential late night noise and parking lot and car lights.*

*Ongoing follow-up communications regarding updates were circulated through EHFNA's eNews, website and Facebook page.*

**NOTE:** Understandably, affected neighbors, those within 100', had legitimate concerns. East Harriet also received comments from many neighborhood residents expressing excitement for a neighborhood restaurant, something East Harriet currently does not have since Java Jacks closed.

***President Obama's June Visit to Minneapolis and Lake Harriet Bandshell***

*The location of the event presented a great opportunity for many neighborhood residents including East Harriet to attend this once in a lifetime event. Due to high security practices nearby parkways, buildings, buildings, parking lots and trails were impacted. Much of the information communicated about how to get tickets and day of event logistics were not clear and many residents were confused about details. East Harriet was able to obtain additional information answering questions and communicate that out to the neighborhood via eNews.*

### **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?

*Parks Environment & School Committee (PES)*

- *Co-hosts the annual Earth Day Clean Up at Lake Harriet with MPRB.*
- *Supports the Lyndale Community School by communication their events and achievements through EHFNA's eNews and website.*

*Worked with the Audubon Society and Linden Hills Neighborhood to support and protect the Thomas Sadler Robert's Bird Sanctuary management plan, proposed trail improvements and capital improvement program opportunities. EHFNA continues to support the business community in our neighborhood and the surrounding area of southwest Minneapolis. The Board feels it is crucial to the vitality of the neighborhood to have a vibrant business community. Local businesses benefit by receiving Minneapolis Great Streets Business Façade Improvement Grants from both EHFNA and the Nicollet East Harriet Business Association.*

*The Crime, Safety, Transportation, and Noise Committee (CSTN) participated in the MSP FairSkies Coalition, a group composed of representatives from southwest Minneapolis neighborhood associations. The focus of the group is to promote community engagement on airport-related issues impacting the neighborhoods.*

**4. Housing**

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

*2 hours a month*

**5. Financial Reports**

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

Report attached

**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?

*Most of our interaction is with NCR, Council Member's office and Minneapolis Parks.*

*NCR –Having to complete only one CPP plan for a three year period (2014-2016) was a big improvement and saved time with board meetings.*

*CM Bender and CM Palmisano or their staff took turns attending all of our monthly meetings providing updates and information on City issues. Their offices are always available and responsive to questions and requests for information.*

*East Harriet also interacts with the MPRB on projects including Bird Sanctuary Management Plan .*

*Our Crime & Safety committee chair has positive interaction with the Minneapolis Police Dept. 5<sup>th</sup> precinct including the crime specialist.*

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?

*Communication from CM Bender & Palmisano's offices, MPRB and MPD 5<sup>th</sup> precinct affecting our neighborhood was helpful in getting the information out to residents.*

*General information from NCR is good.*

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? \_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_

**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 do receive a Planning Application Report which is helpful to know what type of building projects are planned for the neighborhood.*



*The MPD and CPS are very good at communicating crime reports, prevention tips and MPD sponsored events.*

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? 4

**4. City Departments**

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

*We did not have much interaction with City departments this past year. I subscribed to the city facebook and email notices. I receive traffic, snow emergency and parking alerts in a timely manner.*

**5. City Assistance**

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

*The NCR staff has been helpful in providing information through emails and organized meetings. Robert Thompson and Bob Cooper are very helpful and respond in a timely manner on all matters concerning NRP questions.*

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? 4

**6. Other comments?**