

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

Neighborhood Organization: Fulton Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Ruth Olson

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### **1. Stakeholder Involvement**

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

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?
  - Minnehaha Creek Survey and Town Hall Forum
  - Community Connects to the Creek Summer Series ( in association with Pershing, Lynnhurst and Armatage parks; and Lynnhurst and Armatage Neighborhood Associations)
  - Development of the Fulton Small Grants Program
  - Health and Well-Being Fair at The Waters on 50th
  - Community meetings focused on high impact neighborhood issues (housing moratorium, school construction, etc.)
  - Radon education and test kit distribution campaign
  - 50<sup>th</sup> St. Visioning outreach (in conjunction with Lynnhurst neighborhood)
  - Begin redevelopment of a Home Improvement and Emergency Loan Program (with Armatage, Lynnhurst and Kenny Neighborhoods)
  - Community Garage Sales (combined with Lynnhurst neighborhood)
  - Fulton Fall Festival
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual BLEND Awards
  - Attempted dedicated information table each week at the Fulton Farmers Market for outreach and volunteer recruitment
  - Friends of Fulton Awards
  - Monthly FNA meetings
  - FNA Annual Meeting
  - Bi-monthly newsletter delivered to 2600 residents and businesses
  - Monthly E-newsletter delivered to 700+ subscribers
  - FNA website
  - FNA Facebook Page
  - Nextdoor Fulton
  - FNA Information Sign
  - FNA Block Contact List
  - Welcome Packet Distribution
  - FNA Business Directory
  - FNA Zoning Committee

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

FNA identifies seniors as an under-represented community in Fulton neighborhood. A new senior housing, assisted living and memory care facility opened in Fulton neighborhood in spring 2014. FNA has reached out to the facility to share information and resources. We attended a Health and Well Being Fair to provide neighborhood information to residents, have contributed to new resident packets and are now delivering our bi-monthly newsletter to residents and their families.

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

The Radon Education and Testing campaign was well received and we delivered well over 100 testing kits to residents. We asked for feedback and were able to reflect resident experiences and range of test results in the neighborhood newsletter.

Also, providing a forum for neighborhood engagement on important issues continues to be an important and appreciated FNA activity.

- **What did not work so well? Why?**

The Fulton Farmers Market staff frequently forgets to put out the FNA information/resources/sign-ups for market patrons. We will work with them in 2015 to establish a better system.

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

We reached approximately 750 people through our monthly meetings, the Annual Meeting, Radon outreach, casual surveying, a Town Hall Forum and through phone and/or e-mail contact.

- **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**

Approximately 175 individuals volunteered in organizational activities.

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

Approximately 25,000 people participated activities of the organization (this includes the Farmers Market (1000 people per week), garage sale, Festival and other smaller activities).

- **How many people receive your print publications?**

2600 residents and businesses receive our print publications.

- **How many people receive your electronic communications?**

Approximately 700 people receive our electronic E-news. Another 1,350 receive notices via Facebook or Nextdoor Fulton.

## **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?**  
FNA wanted to better engage the community residents and organizations to come up with and implement engagement opportunities beyond those offered by the neighborhood organization
- **Who was impacted?**  
All Fulton residents and organizations
- **What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?**  
Through the leadership of a new Board member, FNA was able to develop and begin implementation of the Fulton Small Grants Program. Program Guidelines and an application were developed asking for proposals of activities focused on youth activities and community engagement. Seven applications were received on a wide variety of activities.
- **What was the outcome?**  
Activities will take place in 2015 and final presentations will be made at the FNA Annual Meeting in October. We will report next year on the implementation and effectiveness of the grants.

## **3. 2014 Accomplishments**

**Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:**

- **What were your organization's major accomplishments?**  
The continued engagement and feedback for Minnehaha Creek improvements, the Community Connects to the Creek Series and the Radon Education campaign were of particular importance and success to FNA.
- **How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**  
We have been able to better engage Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to let them know the needs of the neighborhood and Minnehaha Creek and the need for funding improvements to the area. The Community Connects to the Creek Series demonstrated the love of the area and the potential for future programming and engagement.

We have also been able to educate residents on the dangers of Radon gas. Every resident will benefit by improvements to the Creek and by identifying high levels of Radon.

## **4. Housing**

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

Approximately 7.5% of staff time was spent on housing-related activities. Approximately another 12 hours were spent by volunteers.

## **5. *Financial Reports***

Please 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?**

The majority of our time in interactions was spent with NCR, CPED and City Council Ward 13.

We have received exceptional communication from the Minneapolis Police Department. We find their communications to be very important to the neighborhood and appreciate the partnership they offer Fulton. In particular, CPS Jennifer Waisanen has been instrumental in sharing valuable time and resources with Fulton neighborhood.

We also appreciate the level of expertise and effectiveness of communications with our NCR Specialist, Stacy Sorenson.

Furthermore, we appreciate the communication with Bob Cooper and Judy Duffey at CPED; they are always open to discussing issues and coming up with necessary information and solutions to issues.

We have been lucky to establish a better communication method with Public Works through their new Interagency Coordinator, Jennifer Swanson. Jennifer has been neighborhood staff in the past and understands the difficulty of engaging Public Works. She is open to helping us identify who to speak with in Public Works and frequently can make an introduction for us.

Lastly, we have been very pleased to establish good communications with our new City Council Member, Linea Palmisano, and her staff. They are always quick to respond to any needs or questions and provide any necessary information that we may need.

**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?**

Yes, but many times it is more information than we need in certain areas and less than we need in others. Fine-tuning the information to each specific neighborhood would be helpful.

We appreciate the weekly Zoning Application Reports and use them as a way to track development in the neighborhood.

Again, the effectiveness of communications from CPS Jennifer Waisanen is quite high. She provides us with useful information and community resources and responds quickly to requests for further information.

**On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City?   3**

**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.**

This is difficult to answer as there aren't a great number of City activities in Fulton. We do receive good notice of any Minneapolis Police meetings, etc. We also receive timely notices from Public Works in regard to road and/or utility projects and from CPED in regard to variance and permit requests.

**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?**

Better and more consolidated information. For example, a weekly bulletin with notices from all different departments would be appreciated rather than lots of separate e-mails and notices.

**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 have a great relationship with our NCR Specialist, Stacy Sorenson. Stacy always responds quickly to phone calls and e-mails and passes along relevant information. We feel very lucky to have Stacy and appreciate her attention to detail and service to her neighborhoods.

**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?***