

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Kenny Neighborhood Association _____

Contact person: Ruth Olson _____

Date of Board Approval: 4/8/2015 _____

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

- **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?**
 - Radon education and test kit distribution campaign
 - Begin redevelopment of a Home Improvement and Emergency Loan Program (with Armatage, Lynnhurst and Kenny Neighborhoods)
 - Town Hall Forum on Infill Housing
 - Strategic Planning and Committee Formation
 - KNA monthly meetings (10 meetings)
 - KNA Annual Meeting (1 meeting)
 - KNA Summerfest
 - 3rd Annual Ice Cream Social
 - Kenny 365 Project
 - Quarterly print newsletter
 - Postcard mailings advertising upcoming events
 - Monthly E-newsletter delivered to 375+ subscribers
 - Periodic updates to KNA website, Facebook page, and Nextdoor Kenny
 - KNA website, Facebook page, Nextdoor Kenny, Kenny 365 and Kenny Summerfest sites all cross-linked to promote increased knowledge and traffic to all activities
 - Annual neighborhood-wide garage sales in May
 - Co-Sponsor of Kenny Park Earth Day Clean-Up
 - Welcome To Kenny Neighborhood Packet distribution to all new residents in the neighborhood
 - TRUST Home Chore Service
 - Kenny Garden Club

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

The most underrepresented population in Kenny Neighborhood continues to be senior citizens. We reach out to seniors through our TRUST (home chore service) Program. This program allows seniors the necessary help to maintain their homes and stay in the neighborhood. We have recently completed a Plan Modification allocating further funding to this program. We also find that the Ice Cream Social is an event that appeals to seniors and we have a better chance of engaging them one-on-one in that setting.

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

We continue to find the newsletter to be our most successful tool because it is delivered to each and every residence in the neighborhood. Our social media presence has increased and we are focusing on getting information out on all platforms in order to reach the most people.

The Radon Education Campaign was a great way to reach people and we were even able to recruit volunteers to help deliver the test kits. Feedback from residents was very positive.

The Ice Cream Social was particularly successful this year as it was held the same night as the Movie in the Park.

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

We have not gotten feedback that any outreach or activity of the neighborhood association has not worked well. Some events are more popular than others (Summerfest vs. Earth Day Clean-Up), but we value the fact that they might reach different sub-sets of residents.

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

We reached approximately 300 people through our monthly meetings, the Annual Meeting, Radon kits and through phone and/or e-mail contact.

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

Approximately 125 individuals volunteered in organizational activities.

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

Approximately 2,500 individuals participated in activities- primarily at the Summerfest, the Ice Cream Social, the Annual Meeting and the garage sales. Although we know how many individuals hosted garage sales, it is difficult to gauge how many attended the sales.

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

Including other community organizations, approximately 1,800 people receive our print publications.

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

Approximately 1,000 people receive our electronic communications through our E-newsletter, Facebook and Nextdoor.

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?**
Kenny Neighborhood was one of the five affected neighborhoods by the Housing Moratorium enacted in winter 2014.
- **Who was impacted?**
Any current or future Kenny homeowner who was planning on a major remodel or building project was impacted. Other residents were also affected due to the unknown factor of how housing renovations would be handled by the City and how that would affect housing in general in Kenny.
- **What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?**
The bulk of the city engagement on the issue was focused in Fulton and Linden Hills neighborhoods. However, Kenny wanted to have an equal voice in any changes and decisions that were made on its behalf. Therefore, KNA dedicated its Annual Meeting to conducting a Town Hall Forum on several different topics as they relate to housing and its support and infrastructure: Construction Management, Best Ways of Improving the Housing in Kenny, Business/Non-Residential Construction, Density and Infrastructure, New Construction Home Size, Property Values and Affordability, and Environment.
- **What was the outcome?**
Lots of great conversations and feedback were generated; this information was shared with the City and incorporated into the new text amendments for the Infill Housing Ordinance update. The information also helped KNA better understand the needs of current and future residents.



Town Hall Forum: Housing Teardowns

April 22, 2014

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- **What were your organization's major accomplishments?**

KNA has realized that its committee structure is no longer relevant and began a strategic planning process to redefine its priorities and goals. The KNA Board discussed the needs and priorities of residents as indicated in surveying and one-one one communication. It identified three areas that would encompass all of the individual priorities: Community Engagement, Green Space and Beautification and Transportation. The common themes that will run through these committees will be stewardship and sustainability.

- **How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**

KNA has only recently begun to implement the new committee structure, but anticipates that it will be able to better represent the interests of the community on a more unified and consistent basis.

4. Housing

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

Approximately 7% of staff time was spent on housing-related activities.

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?**

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

We 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. Council Member Palmisano's office was instrumental in securing the resources needed for the Town Hall Forum.

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, it is understandable. However, fine-tuning communications to neighborhood specific needs would be appreciated.

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.

There were very few notices of Kenny specific activities (due to low activity). Those received appeared to be timely and appropriate. The Planning Activity Report is very useful and always received on a timely basis.

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? __4__

4. ***City Departments***

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

Better communication between and even within City Departments would help.

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 to5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? __5__

6. ***Other comments?***