

Lind Bohanon Neighborhood Association Annual Report for 2014

Contact Person – Ann Moe, LBNA Chairperson Susan Spiller, LBNA Vice Chair

LBNA used a lot of time to help the growth of the organization:

**the website was updated*

**the bi-laws were meticulously scoured over and approved by Nancy Sabin, the attorney and the board*

**partnerships were formed throughout our neighborhood (Jenny Lind, Camden Care Center, G. Lutheran Church, Commonbond Properties)*

**hired a part time garden manager*

**reviewed and fully implemented our volunteer applications*

**recruited a dedicated volunteer to keep the LBNA Facebook pg. current*

**reviewed handbook for improvements*

**held a board training and retreat*

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

Thanks to the Leadership Award won in 2013, LBNA partnered with the Advantage Service department of Commonbond, some of us read, wrote and taught Leadership Skills to a group of Commonbond residents from the metro, a handful of which, live in LBN.

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

**offered art classes to elderly and disabled*

**made available to elderly and disabled, busing to shopping, voting and social events*

**made certain all events were accessible*

**tried out holding afternoon mtgs. to reach out to the retired community*

Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful?

**it worked best to ask a member or two directly to help us make our projects answer the interests or needs*

What did not work so well?

just doing without consulting for direct feedback

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

**I can't count between events, Jenny Lind open house, mingling at church dinners, an open house event we held to explain who we were, visiting residents of Camden Care, talking with vendors and Realtors as we prepared for the housing fair, etc.*

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

Approximately 75

How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

**between 10-200 depending the event*

How many people receive your print publications?

**every neighbor 1630.*

How many people receive your electronic communications?

**not certain, we do have a web page and Facebook and I'm certain countless personal emails were sent*

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?

**conflict/resolution! Our first formal grievance letter, first formal mediation, countless information demands*

Who was impacted?

**All board members and staff, and residents as we were busy working through the issues -that is why our list of accomplishments for the neighborhood is short!*

What steps did you take to address this?

**followed all recommendations set by Mr. Ruebedor and his department*

**developed policy for proficiency in posting all agenda's*

**worked out all ways to be transparent at all times*

**grievance committee was formed*

**city neighborhood officials were consulted*

**Nancy Sabin, non-profit specialist was hired*

**non-profit attorney was hired*

What was the issue?

Drug dealing, litter and crime at the Pantry at 52nd and Bryant

Who was impacted?

Our whole neighborhood but mostly the residents in that general vicinity.

What steps did you take to address this?

**Board members and residents had conversations with the owner and invited him to our board meeting to discuss the issues at his store*

** We got the police to install one of their "eye in the sky" cameras at the store – temporarily*

** We got the City to commit to installing a permanent camera at the store.*

** We asked the owner and his employees to wear shirts that say "We watch, We call"*

** We asked the owner not to sell tobacco products to minors – to card all youth asking to purchase tobacco products. They agreed*

What was the outcome?

Less drug trafficking at the Pantry, they are carding youth for tobacco purchases, the owner and employees are wearing shirts that say "We watch, We call" and they are more vigilant and picking up more litter outside their store. They also cleared a window in the store so they could have more visibility to the outside.

What was the issue?

Four level 3 sex offenders moved into our neighborhood

Who was impacted?

The whole neighborhood as they are spread out in our neighborhood

What steps did you take to address this ?

** We had a crime and safety meeting to address this issue and lots of concerned neighbors, police, Rep. Joe Mullery, and the person in charge of flyer-ing the neighbors were in attendance*

** We discussed the flyers that went out only to some residents and asked if they could be sent to everyone in our neighborhood– that would be looked into.*

** We discussed the importance of parents teaching their children how to be smart and safe*

** It was stated that level 3 sex offenders are more likely not to re-offend, especially where they live.*

** Discussed the importance of block clubs – more eyes watching out for suspicious activity and to call 911 if you see something suspicious*

What was the outcome?

** We have not seen any flyers.*

** 2 more sex offenders have moved into our neighborhood.*

2014 Accomplishments – Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014

LBNA went through some major changes in 2014

**The Board went into emergency/crisis mode in June when grievances were filed and members of the board resigned. Several people became board members to help it through this crisis and Nancy Sabin was hired to help us all move forward. The Board decided to not renew the Staff (Amy Leusebrink) contract for 2015. We have accomplished so much thus far and I believe we will be a much better and stronger board.*

Lind Community Garden

We have 60 raised bed garden plots at our Garden and last season we had approximately 37 gardeners (some taking 2-3 plots). We have a diverse group of gardeners that produce food for their families and for the food shelf. It is a great way to meet our neighbors, engage them in conversation and share ideas on gardening.

National Night Out Picnic in the Park

**We had another successful picnic at Bohanon Park. We served hotdogs, chips, fruit chewies, water and pop. We had games for the children and everyone had a great time. We had approximately 125 guests.*

Holiday on 44th

**We made 400 graham cracker house kits and handed them out to 400 children at the event. The children sat at tables and created such unique and creative houses. It was a joy to hand them out and to watch the children make their houses.*

Toys for Tots

**This year we distributed toys to 81 families in our area. Lots of toys and lots of happy children on Christmas.*

Art Program at Shingle Creek Commons

Bus transportation for the disabled

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

**We spent very little time on housing – We decided to cancel our loan program as no one was using it and the company was charging us a fee.*

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your interactions with City Departments and other jurisdictions

Impact

**In 2014 our board has had a lot on contact with the City as we have gone through a major transition. The City and many of its departments have had a huge impact on our board and all in a positive way. Robert and Stacy have been our lifelines and we are so grateful!!!*

City Communications – effectiveness

**The City has always been very helpful to us and if they don't know the answer, they will find the answer and get back to us. They are also very effective in providing us with contacts, information and examples.*

City Communications – Timeliness

**If we leave a message for Robert or Stacy, they always get back to us in a very timely manner*

City Departments

**The one problem that I can think of is getting information (flyers about sex offenders moving into our neighborhood) out to our neighbors in a timely manner.*

City Assistance

**Your informal meetings are very helpful not only for the information you give us but for the input of the other neighborhoods and getting connected with them to share ideas and concerns.*