

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Contact person:

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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?

A. CLPC presented or assisted with a building gathering at Summit House Condominiums, The Kenosha Condo, 1355 Nicollet, 15 East Grant, and 430 Oak Grove.

Attendance at each site varies from 20 per meeting to 130 at a meeting.

B. We are on Year 3 of our Nicollet Avenue Business Safety Coalition. This includes the Nicollet Businesses from Grant to the Freeway, Property Owners of residential buildings, Trained Block leaders of the buildings, Emerson School, 15th St. Dunn Brothers, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis City Attorney's office, HN County Attorney's office.

Discussions involved:

- Fixing the Kiosks on Grant Street
- Customer & Employee Parking
- Rebecca Parrell; small business support & fix up grants available through the City of Minneapolis
- Problem properties along the Avenue and strategies to abate the nuisance
- The double shooting at the 19 Bar
- Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman - discussion of release of person charge with double shooting. Conditional release of \$2,500 cash
- Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Gail Baez & City Attorney Susan Segal to discuss Livability crimes and ordinances, probation, specialty courts.
- Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Gail Baez to talk about Community Impact Statements.
- Discussion on the Ash Trees along Nicollet
- Many Livability Nuisance crimes
- Neighborhood Safety Discussions

Attendance of this group is 15-20 per mtg.

C. Harmon Avenue Workgroup- Implementation of our Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan. A team comprised of residents, 7th Ward Council Policy Aide, MCTC, St. Thomas, property owners, Minneapolis Park Forestry Staff and several Minneapolis Public Works staff has been organized and three (3) meetings held to date. The focus of our Master Plan Implementation is to enhance the Public Realm. The group is looking at adding diagonal parking, greening/flowers, additional bike parking, street trees, and banners. City staff have been excellent. Maps and drawings have been developed for the Neighborhood and thoughtful discussions have occurred. The attendance at this group is 10-12 per meeting.

D. Lowry Hill and CLPC organized a workgroup of Stakeholders along Hennepin Avenue from Franklin Avenue to Dunwoody.

This stretch of Hennepin/Lyndale is slated for a Reconstruction in 2015-2016. This workgroup which includes residents, property owners along the corridor, the Walker Art center, the Churches, City Staff, bicycle & pedestrian advocates have worked tremendously hard to enhance and shape the design plan. The goal is to have this project enhance the bike and pedestrian use for this stretch. They have met monthly for 9 months. The average attendance is 30.

- E. We held two (2) Neighborhood Nite Out Events where notices went out for a gathering at a local restaurant to just network and socialize. Meet each other.
- F. Three (3) Meet & Greets were organized along Nicollet Avenue, 2 hosted by the Nicollet Diner and 1 by Salsa a la Salsa. Neighborhood Beat Officers, Supervisors, Assistant Chief of the Minneapolis Police Department, Park Police, City Staff, Residents, Business owners, and property owners came together to 'Meet & Greet' each other. The goal is to enhance community policing and police/community relationships
- G. Informational Booth at Events held in the Park - At both the PRIDE Festival & Loring Park Art Festival, Friends of Loring Park and CLPC display information about their organizations at a shared booth. We distribute Event flyers and meeting notices and recruit volunteers and participants.
- H. We held ten (10) monthly Land Use Meetings covering topics of: Proposed neighborhood developments, Small Business development, Public Work projects in the neighborhood, Neighborhood Tree planting project. Attendance ranged from 10 to 25 per meeting depending upon the agenda items.
- I. We held ten (10) Livability Committee meetings covering topics of: Neighborhood Safety, Community Events & Gatherings. Attendance ranges from 6-15 depending on the topic. Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis city attorney/Community prosecutor, Minneapolis Park police regularly attend.
- J. The CLPC Coordinator attends the monthly Loring / LaSalle Property Owners & Managers meetings. Attendance ranges from 12-35 depending on the topic.
- K. The CLPC Coordinator & Treasurer of the Board attended the quarterly meetings of the Loring Park Business Association. Attendance is 50-75 depending upon topics.
- L. We organized a workgroup to give input to, monitor, and have contact information for all of property owners and businesses in and around the Basilica regarding a city Re-Paving project. There were 3 meetings and a public meeting on assessments that we assisted public staff with outreach on.
- M. We organized with the City Planning Department a Community Meeting on the Loring Park Neighborhood ReZoning Project.
Seventy five (75) people attended this meeting.
- N. 1730 Clifton Workgroup - Following the City's approved Principles of Community Engagement, residents impacted by the proposed development held two (2) meetings with St. Marks Cathedral, the Episcopal Diocese, and Episcopal Homes-the partners in the proposed development. The goal is to shape the proposal and ensure compliance to our approved Master Plan.
- O. CLPC partnership with Friends of Loring Park and the Minneapolis Parks & Recreation on a series of Events:
- Earth Day Clean Up sponsored by MPRB. Spirit Garage, a local church takes on the Event Coordination. In 2014, a local resident worked for Great Lakes Brewing and they co-sponsored the Event, providing gift bags to the first fifty (50) volunteers and an After Party at a local business. Additionally, Great Lakes Brewery donated a substantial amount of funding to both Friends of Loring Park and CLPC.
 - Loring Park Music Festival - Goal is to showcase musicians/artists with connections to the Loring Park Neighborhood. There are usually 8-10 Acts showcased. There is a 10 member planning team, 22-25 scheduled volunteers the day of the Event and an attendance annually of 750. In 2014 there was a

huge rain and wind storm and we moved the Event inside. Over the course of the day we averaged 250. We also featured a local food vendor. This event can be found on YouTube - Loring Park Music Festival 2014

- Family Fun Night, an Associated Aquatennial Event is a family oriented gathering which occurs before the Torchlight Parade. Carnival Games, Pony rides, Inflatable jumpers, Live Music and local food vendors. This is a free Event. Last year it was estimated that over 1,000 attended. A new feature last year was the addition of 'Women in Wilderness' who offered Canoe Rides. This Event can be found on YouTube - Loring Park Aquatennial 2014.
- National Night Out - This Event held the 1st Tuesday in August is done in partnership with The Woman's Club of Minneapolis. Minneapolis Police Department and the Jeremiah Project are partners in this Event. Neighborhood businesses and vendors donate the food and paper products. Funding is donated by area Property Owners. We provide Live Music and have a Resource Fair which showcases projects and activities occurring in the Neighborhood.

Attendance was estimated at 1,200.

- WinterFest is held in December, a partnership project of Friends of Loring Park, MPRB, and CLPC. This Event features a Bonfire, cross country skiing, Intergenerational dancing, Holiday crafts, refreshments and a Community Sing a Long.

Attendance was 85.

P. There are three (3) Board Events which occurred:

- The Annual Fundraiser & Silent Auction hosted by The Women's Club of Minneapolis features live music and great food! Some of the Silent Auction Items donated by local residents and businesses were: Barbeque on a Rooftop of a new Apartment building, Ride A Long & Lunch with the Chief of Police, A 'Meal in a Mansion'. 125 attended this event.
- The Annual Curry Dinner & Holiday Party-Held in December, World Mission prayer league hosts this Event providing the food, deserts, refreshments. It is a wonderful neighborhood gathering in a beautifully restored mansion (which CLPC helped to save years ago). This event was attended by 90 people and is on You Tube at 'Curry Dinner 2014.'
- The Annual Meeting and Information Fair held for CLPC to report back to their membership on the work throughout the past year. The Diversity Street Dancers performed as did accordionist Mark Stillman featuring Russian folk songs which the Dancers knew and joined in on. Board Members were elected and Elected Officials and the Minneapolis Police Chief spoke. Committee Reports and projects of the Organization were reported on. Partner Organizations set up Information Booths. We had 34 Booths and Attendance of approximately 150.

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

- A. Our stated goal in the 2014 CPP plan was to develop engagement with our large Senior, Russian population. We have not yet figured this out.
- B. We continue to think about how to involve folks in the organization, especially younger folks, out of school where Loring may be their first home away from School. What is interesting though, is that throughout Events, Projects, and Committee meetings, neighbors focus on projects. No one really discusses whether or not they own or rent, they just work together on common issues.
- C. We have two (2) ongoing projects with MCTC. Our Coordinator sits on the Advisory Committee for a new curriculum, now Program of MCTC - Community Organizing & Community Development. Then, CLPC has been involved with supporting the 'Green Dot' Project. Green Dot is about learning to de-escalate violence - personal and community by distracting, redirecting, and interrupting. Green Dot held a 'March for Peace and Non Violence' to be in solidarity with the 19 Bar following the double shooting which occurred there this past Fall. They have conducted trainings, held conference sessions and hold regular meetings to move this initiative forward. A former CLPC boardmember leads this initiative.

- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?
Events are an open, fun, non threatening way for neighbors to be involved and meet each other as well as small gatherings at local businesses and individual buildings. These are far more attended than the structured CLPC Committee meetings.

The Board has discussed setting a plan to get into several buildings a year to discuss the neighborhood with folks in those buildings. We can also assess interest of residents for further involvement with CLPC.

- What did not work so well? Why?
We continue to try to figure out ways to build our Committee participation.

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

These counts are identified per activity above.

The CLPC Coordinator holds over three dozen one-on-ones in the course of a year. These one-on-ones are with MCTC students, MCTC Faculty, Business owners, Property owners, Residents interested in volunteering, city staff, residents who need assistance (a public works issue, someone who was robbed, someone who was assaulted, business owners with an expansion idea, prospective developers, and neighborhood Church/Organization staff.

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

These counts are identified above.

Additionally, we have ten (10) Board members and 10 meetings per year

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

See above

- How many people receive your print publications?

We post Ads in the Downtown Journal for Events and Special Community Meetings.

We partner with Minneapolis Marketing, LLC to promote the Associated Aquatennial Event through printed materials.

We do a monthly E-Newsletter which goes to everyone who has participated with CLPC, asked to be on a mailing list, or signed up to get the newsletter at Events. Printed materials are made into PDF's and included in the newsletter to be printed out and distributed by anyone receiving the newsletter.

CLPC has an Email list - we send to the Property owners, many of which have internal building email networks - we send to Friends of Loring Park who distributes to their Board and Volunteers - we send to Loring Greenway Association who sends to their members. Meeting notices and Event PDFs are distributed to be printed out and distributed by anyone getting the email. We estimate that this network reaches out to 2,000 people.

We place our Events in the quarterly Friends of Loring Park newsletter. This newsletter goes out to 2,000 people.

We send Event and Special meeting notices to neighborhood churches to place in their Sunday bulletins.

We create flyers for Neighborhood Events and our Annual meeting and place in Neighborhood businesses, buildings, and Organization.

We place community information on our webpage www.loringpark.org. This includes PDFs which can be downloaded and distributed.

Two years ago a MCTC student created a Facebook Page for CLPC. Our Livability Chair frequently posts photos and CLPC activities on that site. CLPC Coordinator places meeting notifications on the site. JPEGs are created for all Events, gatherings, and community-wide meetings.

We still use phone calls and personal conversations one to one as a way to get our information out - "Each one, Reach one".

We try to use a variety of methods to get CLPC information out to the community. We need to work with property owners and residents to get information inside any of our buildings. Soliciting inside locked buildings is not allowed by rental housing rules or condo association guidelines. These are locked buildings so organizing in a vertical neighborhood can be challenging.

We have hard copies of our Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan at the MCTC Library, the DT Library, The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, Laurel Village Management Office, Loring Park, Summit House, and the Kenosha. It is available electronically at www.loringpark.org

· How many people receive your electronic communications?

See above

2. 2014 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:
ΛΕΕΔ/ΝΔ – Λεαδερσηιπ ιν Ενεργψ ανδ Ενπιρονμενταλ Δεσιγν φορ Νειγηβορροοδ Δεπελοπμεντ: € Ωε αρε α πιλοτ προφεχτ φορ τηε Υ.Σ. Γρεεν Βυιλδιγ Χουνχιλ.€ Ωε αρε ρεγιστερεδ το βε χερτιφιεδ ανδ χομπιλινγ νεχεσσαρψ δατα το δοχυμεντ ΛΕΕΔ/ΝΔ χρεδιτσ.€ Ονχε τηισ ισ χομπλετεδ ωε ωι λλ συβμιτ φορ χερτιφιχατιον.€ Ιτ ισ αντιχιπατεδ τηατ Λοριγ Παρκ Νειγηβορροοδ ωιλλ βε τηε φι ρστ φυλλ νειγηβορροοδ ιν τηε Νατιον το βε χερτιφιεδ.

'Elders Wisdom, Children's song is a project of Community Celebration of Place, a Minneapolis non profit organization. Executive Director, Larry Long is a Smithsonian Folk Artist and brings his talent into the project. CLPC contacted Larry and Emerson School to collaborate on a project. Dr Josie Johnson was selected as the Loring Park resident to Honor. Emerson School children, through their music classes, interviewed Dr. Johnson about her life. Then they took what they learned and wrote a song about Dr. Johnson. Students through their Art Classes designed a book about her life. A Celebration was held to honor Dr. Johnson with family, friends, students, teachers, and parents of students at Emerson school. The students then premiered their song and their book about Dr. Johnson to and for Dr. Johnson. It was a great learning experience for the students. Dr. Johnson has spent her life on civil rights issues and was the first African American appointed to the U of M Board of Regents. You can find this on YouTube, both the full Celebration and a shorter clip - Dr. Josie Johnson Celebration.

· What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?

Noted above.

· What was the outcome?

Two wonderfully successful projects.

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

· What were your organization's major accomplishments?

A. Implementation of the Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan through the start of the neighborhood re-zoning study, the Hennepin/Lyndale workgroup, and the Harmon Avenue Work Group.

B. Renovation & city approval for the first neighborhood Bed & Breakfast. Also identified in our Neighborhood Master Plan is the suggested re purposing of Neighborhood Mansions to Bed & Breakfast. Looking into the future, our Historic Properties were identified as the most value asset in the neighborhood, though economically and financially challenging to keep in use. Worried about abandonment, architectural theft, sale of property for demolition and redevelopment, a lot of

thought went into this component of our Master Plan. The renovation of 300 Clifton is a Master Piece!

- C. Creation of a Berger Fountain workgroup comprised of two representatives from Loring Greenway Association, two representatives from CLPC, two representatives from Friends of Loring Park and in partnership with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Department. We are developing a plan to renovate the Fountain, the Plaza, and create an aesthetic winter cover. Design, costs, and a Fundraising Plan will be tasks of this group.
- D. Loring Park Cattails - Following successful action at the 2014 Legislative session, Commissioner Anita Tabb dedicated capital funds to initiate the removal of these invasive cattails.
- E. Everything mentioned above.

· How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?
It is hard to project the impact of the above work since community focused.

On an individual level, CLPC helped a resident organize a Holiday party in their building after a year of tenant evictions for criminal behavior, one being a murder in the building.

CLPC participated in celebrating the life of former Boardmember and active volunteer Robert Hansen, grieving with his neighbors and friends at their Loring Park residence.

CLPC Coordinator helped three (3) neighborhood residents who were victims of assaults over the year.

CLPC assisted the 19 Bar in victims' rights and advocacy surrounding the double shooting at the 19 Bar.

CLPC assisted through advocacy approvals necessary for our first Bed & Breakfast - 300 Clifton.

CLPC assisted through advocacy approvals necessary on the renovation of 131 Oak Grove.

CLPC Coordinator facilitated two Strategic Planning sessions for Friends of Loring Park on issues of capital improvements, maintenance, and programming.

Events make people happy, build community, and generates ideas for future neighborhood projects. Informally issues are shared and solutions developed. Projects are shared and feedback gathered. They are a crucial component of Community Engagement. They are usually where new volunteers are found and recruited.

4. Housing

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

Organizationally, 25%

Staff time, 35-40% if Master Plan Implementation projects are included

5. Financial Reports

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

2014 year end close out is occurring now.

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?

1st Precinct Police - Excellent to work with. They attend our Nicollet Avenue Safety Group, the Meet & Greets, Community Events and our Livability Committee. They are problem solvers, helpful and

working with us to enhance police/community relationships.

Minneapolis City Attorney's Office - Both Susan Segal and our 1st Precinct Community Prosecutor have gone over and above to assist us with issues of public policy and neighborhood safety. CLPC is also a partner in the Downtown Court Watch, a multi jurisdictional housing first approach which includes on the team representatives from all DT neighborhoods, HN County Attorneys office, Minneapolis parking ramp staff, service providers, representatives from Emergency Shelters, Minneapolis Police Dept./1st Precinct, City Attorney/Community Prosecutor & paralegal, Hennepin County probation, Street Outreach workers focused on eliminating homelessness, Housing providers, and Transit Police.

Solid Waste & Recycling - Nicollet Avenue. Department staff were excellent! Helpful, great communicators, problem solvers, creative thinkers! Great staff to work with. Additionally the Sanitation Crew (Garbage people) are Excellent!

Patrick/Ward 7 Policy Aide - Extremely helpful and informative. He responds timely to questions and has excellent follow up and follow thru.

Beth Elliott and the Planning Department have been very helpful on issues of re development, ensuring notification of pending city requests. They worked hard on our Community Meeting to launch the re-zoning meeting, came very prepared and presented great information.

Last year we expressed great concern with Public Works staff on issues of timely notification, communication, and cooperation.

This year we experienced great working relationships even through some challenging moments with:
Hennepin Re paving Project
Hennepin/Lyndale ReConstruction Project
Harmon Avenue Workgroup

The goal for 2015 is to build better communication and policy review with city staff assigned to parking meters and those responsible to 'Hood' meters during events or small public works projects.

The sadness of the year was 1) the passing of a 30 year dedicated Loring Park Neighborhood leader & Volunteer - one who worked on the 3 Neighborhood Team to create "Eat Street", and 2) the unexpected passing of our Loring Park Director Carmen Wilson who died at the young age of 51. She worked tirelessly on our Neighborhood Events and Loring Park hosted our Committee and Board meetings.

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? 3-4

2. **City Communications – effectiveness**

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

Yes, rating is a 4.

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.

Yes.

One piece is yet to work out a better communication process for when meters are hooded and for what and how long. We want our businesses to succeed and this presents a real hardship to business operations.

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? 3

Park Board notification this year has been the worst. If real community engagement is wanted there needs to be no less than a 45 day notice. Residents and Businesses and Organizational representatives are Volunteers and with that, they need to plan - take off work time - get babysitters - be in town. Especially on issues of booking citywide events and not communicating with center park staff or CLPC has caused frustration. We hope this improves and we continue to have sit down meetings each time it occurs.

4. City Departments

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

Believe in, value and support neighborhood input. Look at neighbors as assets that they are to the City vs just a step to get through on the checklist.

If neighbors organize residents to public hearings or to give input on a project, those opinions need to be valued and listened to or they will not be back.

City Staff and Electeds should annually review the City Council approved & adopted Principles of Community Engagement.

5. City Assistance

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

Prioritize and Value Neighborhoods.

Work to ensure timely turn around on plan modification requests to the NCR office. They should be completed in 3 weeks and no more than a month. Neighborhood advances are small. A slow unpredicted turn around can cause cash flow shortages in neighborhoods.

Work on solutions to obstacles neighborhoods face in community engagement like the policy to not allow CPP funds to be expended on musicians and other entertainment. You cannot have an Event or Gathering without a draw to get community out.

Continue working on a fund to provide food at Community Gatherings.

The Annual Conference is a great Event! Lots of networking and opportunities to learn about community work.

The group General Liability Insurance and D & O Insurance is very valuable and a cost savings to neighborhoods. Thank you. Maybe the next step could be developing a Group Health Insurance policy for neighborhood staff. If you have a one person or PT staff, health coverage is very expensive. This may really help and ensure that neighborhoods are compliant to the Federal Health initiative.

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?

Again, when NCR plans the Annual conference they pay for food. Many times there is entertainment. Whatever strategy is used to have that funding be available and accessible for the conference should be the model to ensure that neighborhoods can structure and implement events. Assist NCEC Commissioners with their roles. There are many projects and policies being reviewed both at NCEC and NRP where representatives should be getting neighborhood advice and input on, to bring to those boards, to guide discussions. Especially when those Commissioners are District Reps.

In the upcoming Consolidated Plan development, please work to recover the \$270,000 of allocated and approved NRP Phase 2 funding which was taken away by Council Action in December 2010 out of the extra TIF Revenue projected. The 2 swing votes on city council at the time voted to support these funds being taken away, but only on a promise that they would be repaid. Additionally, there was always a plan

to develop a 'capital project' fund when NCR was created and discussions and public hearings of future neighborhood funding occurred.