



**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

APPROVED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD ON

12/09/2015

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Northeast Park Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Christie Rock Hantge

Date of Board Approval: 12/09/2015

1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

- **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?**
 - Held 10 board meetings during 2014 (the NEPNA Board does not meet in July and August). The meetings were attended mostly by residents, but periodically by some business owners. On average, there were between 10 and 20 people who attended monthly board meetings.
 - Held the organization's 2014 Annual Meeting on November 14, 2014, at Sociable Cider Werks. There were 75 people in attendance. Elections to the board were held at this meeting.
 - Updated the Northeast Park neighborhood Web site on a regular basis, including information on NEPNA meetings and events:

www.northeastpark.org
 - Updated the Northeast Park Facebook page to include information on NEPNA events, activities happening in the neighborhood and important City information.
 - Posted meeting information on "Next Door" Northeast Park.

<https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/northeastparkmn--minneapolis--mn/>
 - Reviewed land use and liquor license applications for new businesses in the Northeast Park neighborhood.
 - Provided input on the following neighborhood issues:
 - Yinghua Academy's building project.
 - St. Anthony Parkway Bridge over Northtown Yard.
 - Closing of Central Avenue due to bridge reconstruction.
 - Opening of Bauhaus Brew Labs in the old EM Machinery Building.
 - Back to school traffic at Yinghua Academy.

- Reconstruction of the Northeast Park Athletic Fields Building
 - Communicated with microbreweries located in NE Park Neighborhood concerning licensing for outdoor events (i.e. Brewery Bash at Sociable Cider Werks).
 - Maintained communication with Hillcrest Development concerning issues with tenants and in celebration of developments.
- **How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?**

The biggest challenge continues to be engaging renters on a long-term basis. They are a more transient population. NEPNA seeks to engage renters via posting information about the organization's Annual Meeting on bulletin boards in common areas of apartment buildings, as well as through social media. NEPNA also shares information with the Second Precinct's Crime Prevention Specialist, who has connections with apartment managers.

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

The best way to do outreach into the Northeast Park neighborhood is via the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.northeastpark.org>
- Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northeast-Park-Neighborhood-Association/182654927348?fref=ts>
- Email list of neighborhood residents
- *Northeaster* newspaper
- *Journal* newspaper
- Minneapolis Connects
- Second Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist
- "Next Door" Northeast Park, <https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood/northeastparkmn--minneapolis--mn/>

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

NEPNA does not use door-knocking, because it does not have a community organizer on staff, and it is difficult to find volunteers to do so. The NEPNA Board has talked about working in partnership with an adjacent neighborhood to do door-knocking around a specific issue, for example, identify specific crime and safety concerns, get feedback regarding the design of the new Northeast Park Recreation Center, or distribute flyers regarding NEPNA's housing programs.

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

Depending on the agenda items, between 10-20 people attend monthly board meetings. 75 people attend the 2014 Annual Meeting, which took place on November 14, 2014, at Sociable Cider Werks.

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

NEPNA has 21 volunteer board members and board alternates. There are also a handful of other dedicated residents who regularly attend board meetings. Engagement has increased substantially since November of 2014.

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

NEPNA's primary opportunity for people to participate in the work of the organization is through monthly board meetings and the annual meeting. NEPNA likely touches several hundred people on an annual basis in some way, shape or form. August 4, 2015, marked the neighborhood's first National Night Out celebration. It was hugely successful.

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

NEPNA prepares a bi-monthly newsletter / flyer and mails it to approximately 400 households. NEPNA promotes its events through the newsletter, as well as the *Journal* and the *Northeaster* newspapers.

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

NEPNA distributes information regarding board meetings, neighborhood events and City of Minneapolis programs via its email list, Web site and Facebook page. NEPNA has 193 "likes" on its Facebook page and growing.

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?

The biggest highlight of 2014 was the November 14, Annual Meeting at Sociable Cider Werks. There were over 75 people in attendance, which is the best turn-out for a NEPNA Annual Meeting in many years. Long-time board member Brian Steele retired

from his position as President, and Kristin Petersen was elected to fill the role. There were other new community residents elected to the board as well.

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?**

Below is a listing of NEPNA's major accomplishments in 2014:

- Helped get the word out to neighborhood residents regarding the City's 2014 Tree Distribution Program.
- Helped get the word out to neighborhood residents regarding the City's 2014 Clean-Sweep event.
- Helped promote public meetings related to the reconstruction of the Northeast Park Athletic Field Building.
- Terminated contract with the Center for Energy and Environment. Started discussing the possibility of entering into a relationship with the Greater Minneapolis Housing Corporation to administer the organization's housing funds.
- Held the annual meeting on November 14, 2014, at Sociable Cider Werks. Elected a new president and vice president for the first time in many decades.

NEPNA is estimated to have impacted 600 plus residents living in the neighborhood during 2014. **Housing**

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

NEPNA spent 40% of its time between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014, discussing housing related issues. In September of 2014, the board decided to withdraw its housing monies from Center for Energy and the Environment. The board started discussing how it would like to use its housing monies in the future and who should administer the programs. No final decisions were made in 2014.

4. Financial Reports

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

Please see attached document.

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?

NEPNA reviews land use applications and liquor license applications. As a result, NEPNA spends time interacting with City staff people from CPED; including Planning and Zoning and Heritage Preservation, as well as Regulatory Services. NEPNA also works closely with City staff people at CPED Finance. Finally, NEPNA regularly communicates with its NCR Specialist Jack Whitehurst. Jack is always very responsive to questions from NEPNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock Hantge. He is always willing to provide input and advice. He is very diplomatic and thoughtful with his responses. He has attended several NEPNA Board meetings over the past 12 months. NEPNA looks forward to continuing the good relationship with Jack in 2015 and beyond.

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? __5__

2. *City Communications - effectiveness*

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

Yes

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? __5__

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

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? __5__

4. City Departments

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

NEPNA communicates frequently with the City's Regulatory Services Department with regards to liquor license applications, expansion of premises applications, and extended operating hours applications. NEPNA has been mostly satisfied with the communication related to liquor license applicants, but would encourage the department to require all licensing applicants to contact the neighborhood directly, well in advance to the public meeting notice being mailed and prior to the public hearing. NEPNA appreciates meeting with the applicant in advance of the public hearing. The NEPNA is hopeful the Regulatory Services Department will take this request to heart.

5. City Assistance

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

At this point, the NEPNA is satisfied with the assistance the NCR Department provides to the neighborhood.

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?

NA