

# Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

**Neighborhood Organization:** Heritage Park Neighborhood Association

**Contact person:** Terra Cole, Executive Director & Candy Bakion, Board Chair

**Date of Board Approval:** April 13, 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?*
  - Annual Meeting
  - Fall membership meeting
  - Harvest Festival
  - Community Garden
  - Regular board meetings
  - Presentation on the historical creation and significance of the Sumner Glenwood Neighborhood
  - Bottineau Stationary Planning
  
- *How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?*

The Heritage Park Neighborhood Association in the past couple of years has been comprised of mostly renters. In 2013 we embarked upon a process to add new board members to the board and we currently have three homeowners which is the maximum our bylaws allow for at this time. In 2014, we were able to change our bylaws to allow for a maximum number of board members to cap at 17 and a minimum number of 9. Our bylaws also break down the number of board members from specific affinity groups that were previously underrepresented or not represented at all. We now have a representative from MPHA Heritage Park at Pond's edge & Art Love Manner. Both seats are designated to be filled by a resident of those respective buildings. We also have a permanent board position for a member of the Heritage Park Master Homeowners association, and two appointed positions that the board can use at their leisure to ensure that the level of knowledge and expertise they need can be accessed. For more information, please see the attached HPNA bylaws for more information regarding the makeup of the board.

For our fall meeting, we went the extra mile to ensure that all of the residents we reached out to would have the ability to contribute to our conversation by hiring translators for residents who speak Spanish, Hmong and Somali.

- *Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?*
  - As state previously, HPNA has been rebuilding an in several ways, re-imagining itself since the loss of organizational staff and cutting ties with Urban Strategies in the fall of 2012. HPNA mailed the entire community for the first time for the 2014 annual meeting and again for our fall membership meeting. Board members were actively engaged in fliering the neighborhood as well as organizing the content and flow of the fall membership meeting which was a success.
  
- *What did not work so well? Why?*  
n/a
  
- *How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?*
  - It is estimated that during the course of 2014, HPNA reached approximately 1200+ individuals via our programming activities, community engagement/information events and forums.
  
- *How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?*  
12
  
- *How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?*  
80
  
- *How many people receive your print publications?*  
780 households
  
- *How many people receive your electronic communications?*  
300+

## 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?*
  - HPNA faced an eviction from McCormack Baron Ragan in the summer of 2014 which is still not settled. Staff utilized at least 60% or more of their time responding to this issue, maintaining communication and informing the board on what steps they needed to take in order to adequately address the issue.
  - Residents of the Heritage Park Apartments and the rest of the community were permanently barred from using the community room housed in the leasing office.
  - HPNA was also barred from using the community room located at Heritage Park Apartments, a space they had been using, without issue, for over seven years.
  - Urban Strategies had developed an unauthorized use of HPNA's name and "doing business as" names of Heritage Park and Heritage Park Neighborhood thereby giving the appearance of working on behalf of or for HPNA, but doing so without the knowledge of the board or HPNA staff.
  
- *Who was impacted?*
  - All residents of the neighborhood including board members and HPNA staff.
  
- *What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?*
  - HPNA's staff, executive committee, the full board and community partners took part in actively engaging MBR local and corporate staff in trying to find an amicable solution.
  - HPNA staff identified the problem and then worked to gain the support of MPHA to advocate on behalf of the organization.
  - HPNA staff and executive committee members sat down with MBR staff (local and corporate) to negotiate an agreement that would work for both parties. This was done with support from the MN Center for Neighborhood Organizing and a private consultant.
  - HPNA staff and board also solicited letters of support from our community partners (Harrison Neighborhood, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, Heritage Park at Ponds Edge Resident Council and NCR) and submitted them to McCormack Baron management.
  - HPNA also had a series of meetings with MBR and Urban Strategies Executive Director Sandra Moore (who was acting as an agent for MBR) to come to a solution. It was decided that in order to solve this issue, Urban Strategies needed to have a Memorandum of

Understanding with HPNA and that room usage guidelines needed to be in place for community room usage.

- *What was the outcome?*

HPNA is still in discussion with Urban Strategies and MBR, however we have come a very long way since our initial discussion in August and in October. MOU discussion are ongoing, but HPNA is confident that an MOU and all of the other suggested actions will become a part of a formal document by June of 2015 if not before.

Below are some of the outcomes that HPNA has discussed and believes will become a part of the permanent memorandum of understanding with Urban Strategies and subsequently MBR.

- The creation of a Memorandum of Understanding/Shared Space Use Agreement between MBR, Urban Strategies and Heritage Park Neighborhood Association.
- Work with MBR in the creation of Room Usage Guidelines for the Community Room housed here at Heritage Park Apartments. That will allow residents to be able to utilize the community room again and will not allow for Urban Strategies to monopolize the room preventing others from using it.
- Provide a list of Community Partners that HPNA works with that will also require usage of the room.
- Continue to maintain the shared Google Calendar of events and meetings held in the Heritage Park Apartments Community Room in conjunction with Urban Strategies and MBR staff and post such meetings/events/programming to the HPNA website.
- Recruit a MBR Heritage Park Apartments Staff person to join the HPNA Board of Directors as long as it doesn't jeopardize our status as a HUD recognized Resident Council.
- HPNA Staff will attend a regularly scheduled monthly staff meeting between Urban Strategies, HPNA and MBR Heritage Park Apartments staff.
- Urban Strategies will utilize HPNA as a fiscal agent for all of their MN based grant funded programming and All applications will be applied for either as co-applicants (via detailed letters of support) or as a fiscal sponsor.

- Creation of a funding calendar and coordinated effort to see which organization is best suited to apply for specific funding that will be vetted through the HPNA Finance Committee
- All funding inquiries will have a letter of support from HPNA board, Executive Committee or HPNA staff
- Urban Strategies will share details on grant applications including the grant deadlines, application and budgets
- All Funding requests from both organizations should support community vetted Neighborhood Priorities (These priorities will be submitted to the city of Minneapolis and Hennepin County).

### 3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- *What were your organization's major accomplishments?*
  - Obtaining our 501c3 status that was back dated to January 1, 2010
  - Securing our office space
  - Working to create a memorandum of understanding between HPNA, Urban Strategies and McCormack Baron Property management
  - Securing a board member from Heritage Park at Pond's Edge and gaining support of MPHA and the Ponds Edge Tenant Association
  - Training of all board members
  - Hiring an accountant for financial management and consistency
  - Worked to create a clear and understandable scope of work and areas of impact between HPNA and Urban Strategies.
  - Functioning Community Garden
  - Supporting via funding an ongoing engaged Teen program
  
- *How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?*
  - Many residents who did not know that there was a neighborhood organization became familiar with HPNA and our work.
  - HPNA was able to create a written organizational history that they were able to share with community and complimented the historical presentation given by Sam Grant at the fall membership meeting.
  - Board members were engaged and motivated to start creating a strategic plan, the neighborhood priority plan and board committees to help support engagement efforts on issues that were of importance to the community.
  - By opening up discussions with MBR and Urban Strategies, HPNA was able to advocate on behalf of the 200 units of Public Housing

**4. Housing**

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

*HPNA staff spent about 15% of their time working on issues related to housing as a part of its work with the Bottineau Stationary planning Van White/Olson Highway stop.*

**5. Financial Reports**

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

Please see attached

**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?

**NCR – we received great support from NCR during our eviction process and during the negotiation process with MBR and Urban Strategies**

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**

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?

It would be wonderful if we could get a coordinated effort between public works, the park board, public health and CPED regarding the following:

- The median garden space on Gertrude Brown Place (who maintains it?)
- More coordination with plowing of streets and alleyways with in the neighborhood.
- Be a priority neighborhood for new home development that is equitable, involves neighborhood participation and increases the



ethnic/racial mix of the neighborhood by attracting professional people of color with housing products.

- Health equity as it relates to health eating, biking, walking and trails, safe routes across Olson Highway and access to the Minneapolis Farmer's market.

**5. *City Assistance***

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

NCR needs to work more with CPED to determine when and how housing development will happen in Heritage Park. Without growth, HPNA will never receive an adequate share of neighborhood funding like its neighbors even though they are expected to perform at the same level and rate. This community has suffered over the last 10 years by the lack of building and development from the city of Minneapolis and MPHA. It is our hope that prior to the development of the Van White Memorial Bottineau stationary stop, that the city of Minneapolis will issue an RFP or work with a reliable developer to create housing on the remaining vacant lots north of Olson Memorial Highway that are city owned.

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?***

HPNA holds the belief that if neighborhood organizations are to be required to disclose all of their financial holdings, grantors, grants received and other non-city funds, then we believe that all contractors who receive funding from the city of Minneapolis should be required to disclose the same information in the same public manner. This would include all development projects that receive government funding.