

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association

Contact person: Pam Owens, Chairperson

Date of Board Approval: March 10, 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?**

- Regular communications and updates through SCNA's media sources:
 - Facebook
 - Shingle Creek Neighborhood website
 - SCNA monthly newsletter
 - Monthly ads in Camdenews
- Monthly committee meetings (Board of Directors, Executive, Shingle Creek Elementary School , Youth and Event committees.)
 - Community meetings for on-going and emerging issues such as Emerald Ash Borer education, potential partnership with KIPP School, Creekview Park, Olson Middle School, Crime, Block Club leader training, community development, community gardens.
 - Various community and board surveys
- Annual meeting and elections in April (23 Attend)
 - SCNA events including: 20th Shingle Creek Annual Clean-up(100+ attendees), Annual Tour de Camden the only Aquatennial affiliated event on the Northside(100 + attendees), Creekview Park Ice Cream Social(100+ attendees),Sliding Hill Extravaganza(50+attendees), MN Horticultural Society Award winning SC Common Ground Community Garden. (8 gardeners + monthly visitors), Holiday on 44(over 2000 attendees)
 - Meetings with Public Works, Three Rivers Parks District, Hennepin County/Penn Ave Works Project, Hennepin County, Camden Care Center, other neighborhood organizations, Minneapolis Park and Recreation, NCR, CommonBond Communities, and other partner meetings.

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

According to a Pew Study regarding youth and civic engagement:

“Community-based civic engagement is an important behavior to foster among young people (as well as their elders), but measuring it reliably poses challenges...empirically it is clear that much group activity is related to civic participation – or, at the least, that it helps individuals develop skills that transfer readily to civic and political work” *Three Core Measures of*

Community-Based Civic Engagement: Evidence from the Youth Civic

Engagement Indicators Project Scott Keeter, Pew Research Center and George Mason University, Krista Jenkins, Rutgers University, Cliff Zukin, Rutgers University, Molly Andolina, DePaul University, Child Trends Conference on Indicators of Positive Development, March 11-12, 2003 Washington, DC

School in Shingle Creek is Unshuttered and Repurposed after Seven Years:

SCNA in 2013 started focusing on youth as one of the under-represented groups in our community. As a result of our successful education and outreach efforts to elected officials, school board, park board, community residents, media outreach and education by SCNA, a once boarded school for seven years in our neighborhood is now repurposed with a thriving charter school which serves 291 students in 5th-8th grade primarily representing zip codes of 55411, 55412, and 55430: KIPP Academy now (KIPP Northstar).

30 Students Sharing Teachers Book is Unacceptable: Through this youth focused effort and partnership with area schools, SCNA board members discovered the extreme need for classroom books for nearly 600 students at Jenny Lind Elementary School to help those who can barely read or speak English, SCNA helped provide 1021 books for Jenny Lind which led to dramatic noticeable reading and leading results.

- **Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?**
Youth: The youth of our community bridge all cultures and diversities. We focused on the melting pot of our youth. After personal interviews at all the local schools and identifying specific youth needs, we created three starting partnerships with area schools, students, and their families by providing desperately needed equipment and supplies which continue to yield high results for the youth and SCNA. The youth groups including: Loring Footlights, Herobotics, Olson Middle School Principal, KIPP Stand Academy, Reve Academy have attended our monthly meetings and events and participation has increased due to these partnerships. This spring with the aid of our two new board members through this outreach effort they now co-chair a new dedicated SCNA youth committee our partners are posting regularly in our media outlets and strengthening our community outreach and engagement efforts. The Youth team of Reve Academy redesigned our website. Herobotic's team has attended SCNA events and meetings. We are working with new SCNA board members and committee members and Minneapolis Public Schools and After School programming to host a youth summit Energy Expo anticipating 300 participants to help build a new image of North Minneapolis through their brilliant youth-minded endeavors, collaborations and creations.
- **What did not work so well? Why?**
The partnership with the LAO Assistance Center was volunteer driven and when the volunteers moved not only out of the neighborhood and out of the

state and failed to inform SCNA, the partnership waned. SCNA was among the first to partner with the LAO Assistance Center on their civic training program and gained one board member.

Diversity of our board was increased this past year. For the first time our board had a racial and age diversity increase of 33%. SCNA also tried having a board of 15 members for the first time this year, which didn't work as well as anticipated. There were three meetings that had to be rescheduled due to retention which faces nonprofit boards across the city and lack of quorum.

- **How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?** In 2014, the SCNA Board members over the course of the year met face to face with an estimated 200 people about the issues facing the community with the proposed demolition of the school, SCNA events like SC Clean-up, Tour de Camden, and Holiday on 44th event. The Emerald Ash Borer issue, employment opportunity center of the Camden Promise, Camden Care Center, Patrick Henry High School and three other school outreach efforts, MPRB Creekview park staff and summer events, and our eight sponsored community garden volunteers.
- **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?** We had 50 individuals who volunteered for our organizations various activities and events.
- **How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?** SCNA has approximately 1675 people who participate in activities of the organization throughout the year.
- **How many people receive your print publications?** 1150 households and 3031 residents receive our monthly newsletter publication.
- **How many people receive your electronic communications?** 288



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?**
Changing image of North Minneapolis Through Positive Participation in City Wide event: Tour de Camden—Only Aquatennial affiliated event on the Northside:

The 8th Annual Tour de Camden is the only Aquatennial associated event on the Northside. This year the Aquatennial celebrated its 75th year! We also had over 100 participants for the first time that trekked the leisurely fourteen mile route through the seven neighborhoods of Camden. This year is also the first year City of Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges rode the tour to see the beauty of this part of town from the seat of a bike. Comments from riders: “This neighborhood is a hidden gem--- “It was a fun way to community build”---“It isn't as bad as the news or radio says!” Continuing to have positive community events in North Minneapolis like the Tour de Camden, help change the image of North Minneapolis, one rider at a time.



School in Shingle Creek is Unshuttered and Repurposed after Seven Years:

SCNA in 2013 started and continued in 2014 focusing on youth as one of the under-represented groups in our community. As a result of our successful education and outreach efforts to elected officials, school board, park board, community residents, a once boarded vacant school for seven years in our neighborhood that was becoming a blighting influence and growing nuisance and vandalism police calls, is now repurposed with a thriving charter school which serves 291 students in 5th-8th grade primarily representing zip codes of 55411, 55412, and 55430: KIPP Academy now (KIPP Northstar).



Youth Outreach and our SCNA events: Many of our Shingle Creek resident youth attend schools outside our neighborhood. SCNA has worked to impact 590 Jenny Lind students through books and STEM project support, 25 students/families at Patrick Henry High School Herobotics, 25 STEM youth at Olson Middle School, 34 Loring Elementary Footlight school students, their families, and teachers serving our area youth. These future leaders have become more involved with SCNA's work in the community as a result by participating in various meetings, activities, and events, contributing to our media outlets, are the reason for the creation of the SCNA Youth Committee, and continue to now influence the decision making efforts of the Shingle Creek Neighborhood Association Board and its work.

Who was impacted?

Many of our Shingle Creek resident youth attend schools outside our neighborhood. SCNA has worked to impact 590 Jenny Lind students, 25 students/families at Patrick Henry High School Herobotics, 25 STEM youth at Olson Middle School, 34 Loring Elementary Footlight school students, their families, and teachers serving our area youth.

The 15 SCNA Board members were impacted. Many of the 3031 residents of the Shingle Creek neighborhood have increased property values due to our assistance raising the issue and seeking help to remove a blighting influence of the vacant school. SCNA promoted these positive successes to the 3031 residents of Shingle Creek neighborhood and the 29,000 residents of the Camden area.

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

- **Youth:** SCNA took steps to collect information through personal contacts, and meetings, about the current status of the community needs of area youth by meeting with area schools, and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Creekview Park that continues to shape our work and our direction. Several needs were identified including: Vacant school building repurpose, books at elementary school level, STEM support at various schools in our community, drama efforts
- **School Repurpose:** Held several community wide meetings with elected officials, school board representatives, attended outside meetings, wrote or contacted representatives seeking their assistance to find alternatives to a vacant and blighting influence.

- **Emerald Ash Borer Issue:** Over 200 ash trees in the Shingle Creek neighborhood are destined to be effected by EAB. SCNA held three community meetings and adopted its first Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) plan around the Emerald Ash Borer Issue. Future education and planting reimbursements will be offered this year to help residents identify and find alternative solutions for this issue.

What was the outcome?

- **Tour de Camden:** This event is advertised in the Startribune outlets with the Aquatennial events and activities. We have had great feedback from those who attend our event including the Mayor regarding our event and its promotion of this “hidden gem” neighborhood! We also educate riders on community assets and project progresses along the ride to keep residents informed of what’s going on in their community.
- **Youth: School in Shingle Creek is Unshuttered and Repurposed after Seven Years:**
SCNA in 2013 started and continued in 2014 focusing on youth as one of the under-represented groups in our community. As a result of our successful education and outreach efforts to elected officials, school board, park board, community residents, a once boarded vacant school for seven years in our neighborhood that was becoming a blighted influence is now repurposed with a thriving charter school which serves 291 students in 5th-8th grade primarily representing zip codes of 55411, 55412, and 55430: KIPP Academy now (KIPP Northstar).
- **Positive Youth Leadership Support:** SCNA has worked to support efforts at the local schools that promote valuable leadership development. SCNA has been open to and allowed the needs of local youth direct many of their decisions in 2014. The outcomes of SCNA’s support of the Jenny Lind students receiving books and see incomprehensible reading and writing skills dramatically change because of having individual books is extraordinary. To have supported after school activities continues to help develop leaders at middle school and high school levels. These youth have engaged in various SCNA meetings, activities, and events since being supported which helps foster positive connections and relationships to the community that they live and play in and give them a greater sense of place and belonging and pride in community which all lead to stronger leaders in the future.

3. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

- **What were your organization's major accomplishments?**
 - Worked to see that shuttered vacant school building for seven years was repurposed and is now home to 291 students and facility in our community again.
 - Hosted three community meetings to identify and adopted our first Neighborhood Priority Plan to work on education about Emerald Ash Borer issue
 - Support of three youth partnerships led to two new board members, and dedicated SCNA Youth Committee
 - A revised website redesigned by youth team from Reve Academy
 - Had first board of 15 members
 - SCNA worked to establish its first office space and establish it in early 2015.

- **How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**
 - *Over 100 participate in the 8th Tour de Camden the only Aquatennial affiliated event on the northside.*
 - *Over 100 participate in the 20th Annual Shingle Creek Earth Day clean-up event hosted by SCNA at Creekview park.*
 - *SCNA helps table and sponsor the Holiday on 44th event were well over 2,000 people attend annually. Over 100 SCNA bags distributed to remind event goers about SCNA projects and upcoming events.*
 - *Jenny Lind teachers reported significant changes in test scores with the purchase of books for the 590 students.*
 - *25 teens at Olson were engaged in STEM competition.*
 - *34 Loring Elementary school youth were incentivized to increase their school participation by creating and producing a play and invited entire community.*
 - *25 Herobotics students contribute with SCNA's Tour de Camden event and at monthly meetings throughout the year*
 - *SCNA increased its community outreach and diversified its board gaining two new board members because of this outreach effort.*
 - *8 Gardeners at the Common Ground Garden again had SCNA pay for their insurance, and water fees so they would not have to worry about undue burdens or costs as a small group of volunteers.*
 - *15 SCNA Board members gained board skills through board and self evaluation, bylaws revisions, Charities Review Accountability Standards work.*
 - *SCNA continues to send representatives and hold broad community meetings for the Hennepin County Penn Ave Works project, Webber Library planning meetings, and crime meetings.*
 - *3031 residents of Shingle Creek neighborhood were informed of the progress of these important projects, meetings, and urban living through our 12 monthly newsletters and monthly ads in the Camden news which is distributed to the broader Camden community.*

4. *Housing*

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

The percentage of time our organization spent on housing was minimal in 2014 at an estimated 10%. However, late in 2014, SCNA was informed by our Home Improvement Loan vendor Center for Energy and Environment of a new fee structure. After attending several meetings regarding the fee structure and the current city policies, SCNA decided to end its relationship with Center for Energy and Environment. We continue to have discussions about next steps for the returned contracted funds and the program income funds dedicated to SCNA as possibly being an incentive for future development in the Humboldt Greenway next phases or in some other partnership in the near future. The City owns most of the Humboldt Greenway foreclosed properties and is looking to go out for an RFP soon. Dates have yet to be determined. This is a major area in the Shingle Creek area and could potentially be one of the next large efforts for SCNA in 2015.

5. *Financial Reports*

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

Please see separate 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?

SCNA had interactions with the following City Departments: Minneapolis Park Board, Police, CCP/Safe, Humboldt Greenway development contacts, NCR Department.

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

2. *City Communications - effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful? *Having timely information and continuing to communicate always helps with the effectiveness of any programs.*

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate overall communications from the City? 3

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. *We have received notification of City activities.*

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

4. *City Departments*

How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood? *City departments need to continue to give neighborhoods 45 day notice to allow for adequate educational time, any committee work and neighborhood notification time needed. City departments also need to continue to recognize and value the benefit of community participation and input as potential cost-saving, historical capturing, and various other values that citizens can generate regarding potential neighborhood projects. When neighborhoods have a contrary experience or opinion with a city department there needs to be a respectable and equitable means to convey that experience without fear of retaliation or prejudice.*

5. *City Assistance*

How can the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a community participation group?
The NCR department needs to continually remember and recognize that the neighborhood organizations are volunteers rather FT or PT paid employees. They are not city departments but nonprofit volunteer boards and organizations that meet once a month generally. They can accomplish much but need more time to accomplish goals. We look forward to continuing to work with our NCR Specialist and the NCR Department.

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? 3

6. ***Other comments? N/A***