

## Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Contact person: Kristina Erazmus [westcalhouncoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:westcalhouncoordinator@gmail.com)

Date of Board Approval: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 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?

*WCNC outreach for 2014 included:*

- *Periodic e-news updates and monthly meeting notices.*
- *A quarterly Wavelength newsletter mailed to every resident.*
- *Regular updates to the website [www.westcalhoun.org](http://www.westcalhoun.org)*
- *Postcards and posters publicizing neighborhood events.*
- *Facebook posts.*

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

*Under-represented groups in West Calhoun include businesses and renters. In order to reach businesses, the WCNC looked at refocusing on the needs of businesses and will use a survey and face to face outreach in 2015. In order to engage renters, the WCNC mails postcards and newsletters to every resident as well as posting notices in building lobbies. We continue to see more renters involved.*

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

*The most effective strategy for the WCNC is the mailing of postcards and newsletters to every resident. This ensures that every resident receives neighborhood and city news and updates.*

- What did not work so well? Why?

*Our email list is not as large as we would like it to be. We continue to focus on collecting email addresses at events and meetings. We are also pushing social media as a great way to find out what is happening in the neighborhood and city.*

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

*In 2014 we reached approximately 50 people through direct contact. This contact is made through active Board members who connect with residents in their buildings and in the neighborhood.*

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

*Approximately 20*

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

*Approximately 300 – this includes meetings and events.*

- How many people receive your print publications?

*We mailed out 1,560 newsletters.*

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

*216*

## 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?

*One of the highlights of 2014 was the creation of the Committee Structure of the Board. We have seen this work well in other neighborhoods. We have seen our focus on completing items increase as well as a great way to get residents involved who are not interested in sitting on a Board.*

*Another highlight was Movie Night. It was canceled due to the continuous flooding of our green space. While this was unfortunate, it has helped the WCNC to focus efforts on how to improve our only gathering space in the neighborhood. With no park and no other space in which to gather residents for engagement and events this will a focus for 2015.*

*The two biggest issues facing the West Calhoun Neighborhood in 2014 was safety/traffic and the future development of the West Lake Station of the Southwest LRT. With the stops and starts of the SWLRT, it has been difficult to develop a plan on how to best address the needs of the neighborhood. Traffic congestion, increased bike and pedestrian traffic all contribute to the safety concerns in the neighborhood. In 2014 there will be a Multi-Model Study done in the neighborhood to help us address these issues.*

**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?

*The Accomplishments of the WCNC include:*

- *The Special Olympics.*
- *The Fireworks.*
- *We partnered with Whole Foods for our Earth Day Clean Up.*
- *The Loppet.*
- *We hosted informational sessions with the Park Board.*

**4. Housing**

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

*West Calhoun is a very unique neighborhood. The Minikahda Club sits on the largest part of the neighborhood. There are very few homes. Most of the neighborhood housing units are apartments or condos.*

*In 2014 the WCNC will be looking at other ways to invest in housing activities.*

**5. Financial Reports**

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

**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?

*Most of our city interactions are with the city's Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. Jack Whitehurst has always been very knowledgeable and helpful.*

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, the information that the neighborhood receives is relevant and useful.**

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, we receive timely and adequate notices from the city.**

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?   4  

**4. *City Departments***

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

*City departments can help the WCNC in many ways. There are unique qualities and opportunities about the West Calhoun Neighborhood. One, the fact that the neighborhood becomes a "summer resort community" and brings residents from all*

*over the city, the suburbs and even other cities, to enjoy the many amenities of the neighborhood. This uptick in citizens enjoying the neighborhood can present many challenges. Two, there is no park or public meeting space. The "Green Space" that is in the neighborhood does not have a name which contributes to confusion in the neighborhood when planning neighborhood activities. Lastly, the high amount of property taxes that West Calhoun residents pay, all contribute to the reasons we look to the city – City Council, Park Board, Public Works and Law Enforcement- for support and guidance as the priorities, activities and events that the WCNC participates in affects many Minneapolis – and surrounding suburbs - citizens.*

**5. City Assistance**

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

*In 2014, NCR has done a good job of communicating with coordinator's and neighborhood groups by holding informational meetings and having staff available for specific concerns.*

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?**