

Community Participation Program 2012 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Bottineau Neighborhood Association

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1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2012, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2012?

Earth Day Mississippi River front and neighborhood clean-up on April 22 occurred with approximately 22 participants. The board organized the event with the help of the RiverKeepers civic organization. Annual meeting was held with 32 participants and board members October 23, 2012. After a two year hiatus, the Bottineau Gazette, that is mailed to each household resumed publication and the Mulberry Junction Community Garden continued on as an artist and resident lead project in its 18th or 19th year. Organizers debate which year it started. There were 40 plots and 50 gardeners in 2012. California Farms CSA began in 2012 with 16 CSA participants and 2 urban farmers leading the effort.

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2012? Renters and new immigrant effort was established in late 2012.

The board publicized a Somali photo journalism and art exhibit in a pop up gallery located in the community room of the 1808 University NE apartment complex known as Bottineau Commons. The event was attended by over 55 people with photo artists traveling from Iowa and Wisconsin to attend. Phone calls and door knocking in October resulted in at least 6 renters attending the October annual meeting.

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

The consultant hired to assist the board in October met with previous leaders from the Board over coffee/tea and interviewed them at length to find out the neighborhood needs and concerns. This was a basis for finding ways to involve others in the community. Calling people from lists of previous events and door knocking on blocks where no one has attended any events is helpful because a conversation occurs and questions can be asked by the intended participant. Further, issues come up that may need to be addressed by the

board. Door knocking provides the same function in areas where contacts are few. E-mail reminders can be helpful for those who often are already engaged with the BNA. Finally, Facebook proved to be a good way to get the word out to artists in Bottineau. Multi-media uses are important. The Website developed in 1999 was non-functional in 2012 and a new one is being developed in 2013 that is easier to maintain and use.

- What did not work so well? Why?

Website was very old and complicated and the board volunteers could not manage it. The board did a valiant volunteer effort for two years to keep the neighborhood engaged but all volunteer efforts are difficult to maintain and make thrive. At NCR's suggestion the BNA board engaged a contractor to assist with neighborhood outreach and engagement.

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

Door knocking: 25, Meetings: 75, One-on-ones: 6, Cold calling old paper contact lists: 150

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

15 board and community volunteers

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

172

- How many people receive your print publications?

900 residents and businesses each month beginning in October 2012

How many people receive your electronic communications?

(BNA's computer was hacked in 2012 and all the contact information lost from the previous 7 years. Everything was and is in a rebuild mode.)

The office computer had to be completely rebuilt. When contract staff arrived in October of 2012 there was **no** neighborhood mailing list available. Fortunately, the former printer of the neighborhood newsletter, the Bottineau Gazette, had the mailing list. From October 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012 BNA gained 32 Friends on Facebook and email list of 22.

012 Highlights

Please describe one or two major highlights, and if possible, please include digital photos or illustrations:

The volunteer board was faced with a perfect storm of complications: The previous staff person left in 2011, the computer was hacked and all contact information lost and many submissions to various government agencies fell to the board to fulfill. 2012 was a remarkable year of rebuilding the organization and those in-the-trenches operations do not lend themselves to photo ops but they are the very backbone of every successful organization.

2012 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2012:

- What were your organization's major accomplishments?
- How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?

Major accomplishments included rebuilding the computer, re-organizing the board's roles vis-a-vie staff, getting quick books off the ground, holding an election, hiring a neighborhood contractor to help implement the CPPII and NRP II goals and getting the Gazette back in publication after a two year hiatus. The volunteer board submitted a CPPII request for funds, learned how to submit a city request for reimbursement and received funding for 2010 CPP and 2011 CPPI funds. The board held a Mississippi River and Bottineau neighborhood clean up on Earth Day and held a pumpkin carving event in the fall for the neighborhood families at Bottineau Park. BNA co-sponsored a pop-up gallery event with a Somali artist at Bottineau Commons called 12-12-12 Photo History of Somali's in Minneapolis.

Every resident was affected because the newsletter, Bottineau Gazette, was put back in monthly publication and the word got out that BNA is back on track. BNA answered 73 requests for information from Bottineau residents in the last three months of 2012 which is when a contract staff was available to answer the email on a regular basis. Further, 24 phone requests for information were received and answered. (Note: the working phone number for BNA became available in the last weeks of November 2012.)

2. *Housing*

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

Approximately 2% of neighborhood time in 2012 was involved in housing in some way. Most often board or contract staff informed the appropriate city officials of vacant properties that were not being cared for by the absentee owners and in a few cases unsanitary homes were reported to health officials and to the City Council office. All NRP housing funds for Bottineau neighborhood have been expended.

3. *Financial Reports*

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

All income is from the City of Minneapolis.

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?

The departments interacted with in descending order are: Housing Inspections, City Council office Ward 3, Public Works- Water Division and Bicycle Division, Police Department, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the Health Department. The only complaints received about department interactions were about the police department and 911. Residents want more police to get out of squad cars and investigate and interview witnesses of a crime. Residents want one long time drug dealer taken off the streets.

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? 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.

BNA is not aware of any City activities in Bottineau neighborhood. Are you talking about snow plowing or street sweeping? If so, the notices were fine. Bottineau didn't get the new recycling bins in 2012. This caused residents to ask about the new big blue bins. Many wished Bottineau could have been in the rotation earlier for new bins. BNA is unaware of any complaints about city notices of 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? unknown

4. *City Departments*

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

Does the city provide a new business training class for aspiring restaurateurs? Business licensing is confusing to new businesses. Zoning is complicated. Parking rules are confounding. A class would help.

Bottineau residents realize that parking is at a premium. Neighborhood residents would like to park in front of their homes but it is often not possible due to large entertainment venues in the neighborhood that include, but are not limited to, Psycho Suzies and the many Peddle Pubs. Is there a brochure that explains the parking requirements for businesses?

Gardeners and urban farmers reported that the Health Department's efforts with new ordinances and the Homegrown initiative have been very helpful.

5. *City Assistance*

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

When we need something translated it would be nice if we could get this from City staff. Also if we need a translator for meetings it would be great if the City translation staff would show up for meetings.

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?*