

2013 Community Participation Program **Neighborhood Annual Report Form**

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Neighborhood Organization: Bottineau Neighborhood Association_____

Contact person: Nancy Przymus Contractor_

Date of Board Approval: 2/11/2014

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2013, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?
An email contact list of interested neighborhood residents was developed and Facebook was expanded. Both were used to alert neighbors of upcoming events and City, County, School, and Park items of interest regarding neighborhood changes and challenges such as crime alerts, snow emergencies, neighborhood events, school events, non-profit offers of assistance to seniors, youth, artists and budding musicians. The Bottineau Gazette is mailed to each resident and business in the neighborhood. The Gazette generates good response to surveys or requests for resident input. Volunteers have come forward from these entreaties to weeding the rain gardens, submit artwork for the paint-the-pavement effort, and the neighborhood survey for Neighborhood Priorities provided a statistically valid sample of responses.

- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2013?

BNA enlisted the assistance of the Somali liaison person to identify Somali residents who would be interested in participating with BNA. BNA staff did outreach by door knocking at primarily Somali residential buildings and invited them to participate in meetings and jointly developed a children's reading program with Somali parents. Renters are included in many activities and committees, businesses and landlords are also involved in BNA events and committees.

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

Face to face contact is best and the phone tree developed from meeting sign in sheets is proving helpful to getting people to attend the community meetings and events.

- What did not work so well? Why?
Many attempts to translate the Gazette into Somali were tried but despite offering to pay we could not find a translator who wanted to do it. We found out calling people was a better way to communicate.
- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)? 75

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities? 79

35 community gardeners, 2 neighborhood manure haulers for neighborhood yard gardens, 5 rain garden weeders, 6 neighborhood adult and teenage readers in the Somali youth reading program, 6 block club leaders for NNO, 7 board members, 9 crime committee members, 2 paint-the-pavement artists, 6 river and neighborhood clean-up coordinators, 3 Lowry Ave NE design and redevelopment committee members, 4 fall festival coordinators and various on time helpers at events.

- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?
625 (this estimate is low because the CleanSweep participants were not tallied. More households put out items, walked the neighborhood with garbage bags picking up trash, or helped load the trucks than were counted).
- How many people receive your print publications?
914 residents, artists and businesses
- How many people receive your electronic communications?
56 likes on Facebook, 8145 website visits, 12 email blasts to 63 residents

2013 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?

Bottineau neighborhood has worked really hard to bridge gaps between homeowners and renters, new immigrants and established residents, non-gardeners and gardeners, homeless residents and those who are impacted by pilfering of vegetables in the gardens and keeping the neighborhood and river liter free in an area that is highly mobile and visited by many suburban peddle pub patrons and other visitors/residents who frequent the many entertainment venues in the neighborhood.

The River Clean-up, on or about Earth Day, has been a long standing tradition in Bottineau. Building on this success, the idea was expanded into a full neighborhood CleanSweep, including an old tire pick-up. River Liquor Store provided beverages and Pyscho Suzi's supplied breakfast at Gluek Park. The eastside of the Mississippi from the Broadway Bridge to the Lowry Bridge was cleaned up. The RiverKeepers led the group. They are a non-profit group completely dedicated to keeping the Mississippi clean and litter free for all. Northeast girl scouts joined the effort and made for a community building multi-generational event.

The neighborhood residents and the community gardeners didn't always see eye-to-eye on what constitutes a tidy neighborhood aesthetic. Residents around the garden and BNA board members joined with the community gardeners for a first ever Fall Festival October 5, 2014. It was potluck and dishes traditional to Somalia, Russia, Italy and America were served and enjoy by many. Despite the drizzle the bon fire and smores were a resounding success. Residents helped put up the badminton games for the youth, and board members made food to share as well as the rest of the invitees. Everyone agreed it will be even more fun next year.

Volunteers have gathered funds from the Lions and neighborhood donations to make blankets for the homeless in Bottineau. Some gardeners have enlisted the homeless to help them weed in exchange for vegetables. This is a continuing tension.

2013 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:

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

Bottineau promoted the building of little libraries and now 8 have been built in the last year. Bottineau is a small neighborhood so this means there is a little library on every other residential block. It is hoped that more will be added next year. An alternative high school, for hard to reach youth called Menlo Park, recently requested Urban Lit for their little library and BNA is providing those specialized books for the youth.

The annual pumpkin carving event was a big hit this year. After poor attendance the past few years, this year many new families showed up. A new twist was the judging part of the festivities with first, second and third places winning cash awards. The honorable mention was given the same publicity as the award winners. (See picture). Everyone attending got to take home a pumpkin, or two, for fun at home. Park staff roasted pumpkin seeds for everyone to enjoy during the event.

Housing

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

3 %

Staff helped find apartments for residents who lost their long time duplex rentals to foreclosure. Some ongoing low interest home improvement loans continue to help fund the neighborhood housing stock improvements.

2. *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?

CPED informed BNA regarding the development of the old Little Jacks site and potential buyers and developers presented plans at the BNA board and community meetings. The Stanley's expansion was handled in a similar mode. Park planning staff worked with BNA to search for a way to put more benches in the tot lot at Bottineau Park so parents and guardians don't have to sit on the ground while their children play. Council Member office aides and regulatory staff were helpful when problem properties were identified by neighbors.

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.

There were no problems noted.

On a scale of 1 to5, 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?

Traffic Control advised residents to get no parking signs and to call the City when UPS and FED EX trucks blocked their driveways that flow out unto 2nd St NE. Many of the residents need to get out of their driveways to go to work daily or own businesses that require frequent visits home to get parts for the plumbing or HVAC businesses they run. By the time police or traffic control were dispatched the trucks were always gone on arrival. If the traffic control had called the building owners that were causing the deliveries, the 16 year problem could have been fixed years ago. A visit by neighborhood staff to the non-profit agency in question and few phone calls to the executive director fixed this nagging problem within a few hours.

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 Somali liaison was most helpful, thank you Rabia! BNA neighborhood specialist is very thoughtful and encouraging, thanks Stacy.

On a scale of 1 to5, with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, how would you rate the assistance provided to your neighborhood by NCR? 5

6. **Other comments?**

None.