



Cedar-Isles-Dean Neighborhood (CIDNA) 2013 Annual Report Community Participation Program

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1. Stakeholder Involvement

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

What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?

2013 outreach efforts included three postcard mailings (Annual Meeting, Fall Festival and Gift Mart); monthly e-newsletters; meeting minutes, notifications and ads in community newspapers (Hill and Lake Press and Southwest Journal); and timely updates on our website (www.cidna.org). In addition, Board members and Committee Chairs have written many articles and op-eds regarding current projects for publication in local press.

Residents were invited to participate in monthly board and committee meetings. Residents were encouraged to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter at every event, and we recruited volunteers via standing committees, e-newsletter, community newspaper and our annual mailings.

At our Fall Festival the NRP/ CPP committee staffed a table to inform residents of our new Tree Grant program, Park Siding Park revitalization and other NRP activities. The committee also asked residents to convey ideas/opinions by filling out a survey. Our Transportation Committee staffed an information table at the Fall Festival to get direct feedback from the residents about Southwest LRT.

CIDNA partnered with other agencies to help promote public projects happening in the neighborhood. Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) continues to work on two large sewer projects that impact many households in the neighborhood. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) implemented improvements to Park Siding Park, and convened a Community Advisory Committee on trail improvements to Dean Parkway and Cedar Lake.

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

As you know, there are not significant portions of the demographic make-up of the Cedar-Isles-Dean (C-I-D) neighborhood that are the typical “under-represented communities”. We actually consider our under-informed residents as our under-represented and unengaged community.

We do attempt to reach out to this segment by sending mailings to every resident in Cedar-Isles-Dean and including CIDNA Board meeting minutes, notifications and ads in the local newspaper, Hill and Lake Press, which is delivered to every residential property (including apartment buildings) in the neighborhood.

Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why? What did not work so well? Why?

We saw an increase in participation in 2013 due to some major projects happening in the neighborhood that will have a significant direct impact on residents, i.e. the Southwest LRT, reconstruction of Sunset Blvd, the Cedar Lake and Dean Pkwy trail improvement project, and the Trygs development project. As residents learned of projects by which they felt directly affected and began to attend various meetings, they also became aware of the various vehicles by which they could keep better informed.

Tabling at the Fall Festival on the issue of Southwest LRT as well as other neighborhood projects was a successful tool to engage with residents in a one-on-one setting. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions and were invited to provide written feedback via a survey.

Another successful effort has been the submission of informative articles to the Hill & Lake Press and Southwest Journal. Board members and Committee Chairs wrote time sensitive material, which was distributed to every resident in CID.

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

CIDNA had direct contact with approximately 400 people in 2013, particularly related to Park Siding renovation, the sewer realignment project and Southwest LRT.

How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

CIDNA had 40-50 individuals volunteer for various activities in 2013.

How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?

Approximately 550 people participated in our activities during 2013.

How many people receive your print publications?

CIDNA's mailing list contains over 1,700 households.

How many people receive your electronic communications?

CIDNA's email distribution lists contained 410 contacts in 2013 – an increase of 110 from 2012

2. 2012 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?

Southwest LRT

CIDNA continues to work on the issues of routing, possible co-location, tunnels, effects on the chain of lakes and mitigation of the proposed Southwest LRT. As it stands today, a new freight rail reroute has come to the table. However, Twin Cities & Western Railroad Company has announced that it does not find this new reroute tenable.

The County Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) has requested that the Met Council make a final recommendation by the end of June or funding will be moved to focus on the Bottineau line. CIDNA will continue to engage in efforts to mitigate the impacts of light/freight rail in the neighborhood and advocate for a sensible solution that respects the long standing character of this residential area and MPRB bike and pedestrian trails.

CIDNA has stood firm in its position of “no co-location” and will continue to keep the neighborhood informed of any new input, decisions and timelines. This is a complex local and regional issue and has required numerous CIDNA volunteer hours. It is relevant to the character of the neighborhood, potential loss of homes and other neighborhood amenities and to regional transit commuters. CIDNA has organized several meetings of a group called Kenilworth Alliance (a joint neighborhood task force), with representatives from: Cedar Isles Dean Neighborhood Association, West Calhoun Neighborhood Council, Kenwood Isles Association, Cedar Lake Park Association, Calhoun Isles Condominium Association, Cedar Lake Shores Townhome Association.

Park Siding Park

Park Siding Park (PSP) continued to be a primary focus for the neighborhood. Park enhancements in 2013 included the following:

- Design and construction of a brand new playground area – for which a Grand Opening ribbon cutting was held during the Fall Festival
- Creation of an accessible and inviting park “entry”
- Painting of crosswalk striping for safer park access from the Kenilworth
- Reconstruction of another planting bed with drip irrigation.

3. *Housing*

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

Because CIDNA feels that the Southwest LRT routing, tunneling and ultimately mitigation directly impacts, the homes, townhomes and apartments contiguous to the Kenilworth, but also the housing stock of a major portion of the neighborhood; 50% of our time is spent on housing-related activities.

4. *Financial Reports*

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

Please see separate document.

5. 2012 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?

Sunset Boulevard Pedestrian Accessibility and Traffic Calming

After having been a neighborhood priority for now over 20 years, Sunset Blvd, between Chowen and Depot Street is close to have a sidewalk. As part of the MCES sewer realignment project, this block of Sunset has been restructured with the north side essentially replacing the parking lane with a sidewalk and boulevard.

Unfortunately due to weather challenges and some plan changes implemented by Mpls Public Works, the project was not completed in 2013. The street was paved with temporary asphalt and will be resurfaced this coming spring. The concrete sidewalk will also be installed at that time. Street traffic will be slowed down due to the narrower lanes and pedestrian safety will be greatly improved.

Tree Grant Program

The Solstice (June 21) Storm hit the C-I-D neighborhood particularly hard. Hundreds of trees came down on both public and private property. CIDNA began a program by which residents could get partially reimbursed for removing and/or planting trees. Although the program was not fully implemented until August, CIDNA made reimbursements retroactive to the date of the storm.

Art Mart

CIDNA held its first Art Mart on December 13th, 2013. Over 20 local artists/vendors sold items. The event was held at the Jones Harrison Residence which is a long standing community partner with CIDNA. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for community engagement and interaction for a broad age range of CIDNA residents (i.e., teenagers to octa-genarians). The board has approved to make this an annual, seasonal event.

1. ***Impact***

What interactions with City departments occupied a major part of your time? What worked well? What could be improved?

Over the past year, CIDNA has continued to spend quite a bit of time in engagement with the Park Board. Two large projects were completed in the neighborhood in 2013: bike/ped trail improvement project for Dean Parkway and Cedar Lake Parkway and the restoration of Park Siding Park (due to Metropolitan Council sewer project).

We interacted the most with our City Council Members Lisa Goodman and Meg Tuthill and their staff. The Council Members attended our monthly board meetings to share information about City news and issues. We also had weekly interaction with Deb Bartels from the MPRB and Adam Gordon from the MCES during PSP restoration.

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?

- Many of the public hearing notices are very cryptic and require follow-up on the part of neighborhoods to learn more so we can determine whether it is an issue we wish to address.
- Newsletters from our City Council members (Goodman and Tuthill) are excellent.

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.

We receive complaints from residents who feel that the City does not properly communicate regarding issues/projects until very late in the process. CIDNA continues to struggle with ways to effectively communicate with residents in a timely manner. We need help from the City to improve communication with residents, particularly our “under-informed” residents who are (or going to be) directly impacted by City projects. We do not have the volunteer man-hours or the budget to communicate in ways beyond what we are currently providing.

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?

CIDNA would like to thank Lisa Goodman and Meg Tuthill (Minneapolis City Council), Anita Tabb and Deborah Bartles (MPRB) and Adam Gordon (MCES) with the help, guidance and responsiveness they have shown over this past year. They have been in attendance at meetings and functions whenever and wherever requested.

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 C-I-D neighborhood has, over the past several years, been involved in quite a few significant issues/changes. CIDNA has tried very hard to engage residents in the programs and processes, but have had spotty response until residents become aware (often at the 11th hour) and/or are directly impacted. Examples: Southwest LRT, sidewalk installation, park enhancements, etc.

Because the primary goals of NCR are community engagement and reaching under-represented residents, we would be interested in hearing suggestions or given additional tools to meet those goals on our small CPP allocation.

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?*

CIDNA would like to acknowledge the help and guidance Jack Whitehurst has given us over this past year. Jack has provided invaluable assistance in steering us through the CPP and NPP process while not losing focus on our objectives. We would also like to thank Bob Cooper for his responsiveness and willingness to help us sort through questions and arriving at effective solutions.