

Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association (LYNAS)

Contact person: Ruth Olson

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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?**
 - Ward 13 Candidate Forum
 - Community Creek Walk
 - Creek Corridor Feedback Outreach
 - LYNAS Annual Meeting
 - LYNAS Holiday Boutique
 - Monthly LYNAS Board Meetings
 - Earth Day Clean-Up
 - LYNAS Summer Festival
 - LYNAS Garage Sales
 - Buckthorn Bust
 - Lynnhurst Environment Committee (LEC): Trees and Invasive Species Forum and One-Sort Recycling Forum
 - Environmental Enduring Environs Blog
 - LEC "Adopt a Storm Drain" Program
 - LEC newsletter
 - LEC Environmental Educational Initiative "Please Keep the Leaves Out of the Street"
 - LYNAS Low-Interest, Revolving Loan Housing Program
 - LYNAS Business Exteriors Grant Program
 - Bi-annual print newsletter delivered to 2,000+ households
 - E-mail blasts (occasional)
 - LYNAS Facebook Page
 - LYNAS website
 - Nextdoor Lynnhurst

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

Historically, senior citizens are not well represented in the activities of the neighborhood. Along with its existing low-interest, revolving loan Housing Program, LYNAS is also researching senior support services which will allow seniors to stay in their homes and live independently. This information will be included in a new Welcome Packet program which will be rolled out in 2014.

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

The annual Summer Festival was again extremely popular and appealed to a wide variety of neighborhood residents. The Ward 13 Candidate Forum, held in Lynnhurst Neighborhood, allowed us the opportunity to engage with residents at a level which impacts successful elections.

Other smaller activities have been offered to appeal to smaller segments of the neighborhood population: environmental forums, 2nd Annual Holiday Boutique, garage sales, social media networking, etc.

All of these activities allowed LYNAS the opportunity to share information about the Neighborhood Organization, available community resources and to recruit volunteers.

- **What did not work so well? Why?**

The e-mail network for announcements is not utilized well by residents.

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

We reached approximately 150 people through our monthly meetings, the Annual Meeting and through phone and/or e-mail contact.

- **How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?**

Approximately 150 individuals volunteered in organizational activities.

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

Approximately 2,500 individuals participated in activities- primarily at the Summer Festival, the Holiday Boutique, the Annual Meeting, Environmental activities, the Ward 13 Candidate Forum and the garage sales. Although we know how many individuals hosted garage sales, it is difficult to gauge how many attended the sales.

- **How many people receive your print publications?**

2,000+ residents receive our print publications.

- **How many people receive your electronic communications?**

415 people receive our electronic communications and another 525 participate on Facebook and Nextdoor.

2. 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?**
Lynnhurst residents have consistently noted the poor condition of the tennis courts at Lynnhurst Park and ranked repair of them a high level of priority for use of public funds
- **Who was impacted?**
Lynnhurst residents and youth, Lynnhurst Park programming and Washburn High School students are affected by poor court conditions.
- **What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?**
LYNAS worked with Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board staff to reconstruct the courts at Lynnhurst Park. This included grant applications, partnerships with other community organizations and oversight with MPRB. LYNAS contributed NRP funds toward the overall cost of the project.
- **What was the outcome?**
In late summer, the courts were reconstructed and are now in playable condition once again.



3. Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2013:

As noted in our 2012 Annual Report, LYNAS continues to value the business district at W. 54th St. and Lyndale Ave. S. This district is shared with three other neighborhoods, Kenny, Tangletown and Windom, all of whom believe that maintaining the vitality and attractiveness of this district is important to our quality of life. To help enhance the appeal of this district, LYNAS continued to be part of a committee with representatives of the four neighborhoods. The goal of this multi-neighborhood committee is to work with the businesses to implement a streetscaping project. The four neighborhoods have committed to contributing a significant portion of the initial capital cost of installing attractive street features such as benches and bike racks if the businesses agree to establish a Special Services District (SSD) to maintain these items.

After pursuing this project for three years, forward progress was stalled due to lack of timely and pertinent information from Public Works. As a result, LYNAS led the effort to work with the other three neighborhoods in the submission of a Neighborhood Priority Plan (NPP) asking NCR for assistance. This multi-neighborhood NPP was approved by the NRP Policy Board in November, 2013. As a result of the NPP, even prior to the formal approval, progress was made and Public Works provided the necessary information and guidance as to how to work with the businesses to create the SSD. Ward 13 and Ward 11 City Council staffs have gotten involved and are working directly with Public Works to contact the businesses and start the petitioning process for the SSD.

- **How were individuals in your community directly impacted by your work?**

We hope the end result will be the approval of a SSD. This will contribute to a vital and attractive business district.

4. *Housing*

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

Approximately 2% of staff time was spent on housing-related activities. Our very successful home improvement loan program is administered by the Center for Energy and the Environment and is running smoothly.

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?

The majority of our time in interactions was spent with NCR, CPED and Minneapolis Park Board.

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?

Yes, it is understandable. However, fine-tuning communications to neighborhood specific needs would be appreciated.

We are looking forward to using the new crime mapping tool available from MPD.

We are expecting two street related projects in 2014 and are hoping for effective communication regarding those projects from Public Works.

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.

There were very few notices of Lynnhurst specific activities (due to low activity). Those received appeared to be timely and appropriate. The Planning Activity Report is very useful and always received on a timely basis.

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?

Better communication between and even within City Departments would help. Public Works is particularly difficult to navigate and get information from. We are hoping that communication difficulties with Public Works will be lessened as a result of our NPP.

5. *City Assistance*

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

We greatly appreciate the recent change and assignment of a new NCR Specialist, Stacy Sorenson. We have already experienced better and more timely communication with Stacy.

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?*