



**NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM**

**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

**APPROVED BY THE NEIGHBORHOOD ON 10/8/14**

## **Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report**

**Neighborhood Organization:** Northeast Park Neighborhood Association

**Contact person:** Christie Rock Hantge

**Date of Board Approval:** 10/08/14

### **1. Stakeholder Involvement**

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

- **What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2013?**
  - Held 10 board meetings during 2013 (the NEPNA Board does not meet in July and August). The meetings were attended mostly by residents, but periodically by some business owners. On average, there were eight people who attended monthly board meetings.
  - Held the organization's 2013 Annual Meeting on December 11, 2013. There were 7 people in attendance.
  - Updated the Northeast Park neighborhood Web site on a regular basis, including information on NEPNA meetings and events:  
  
[www.northeastpark.org](http://www.northeastpark.org)
  - Updated the Northeast Park Facebook page to include information on NEPNA events, activities happening in the neighborhood and important City information.
  - Reviewed land use and liquor license applications for new businesses in the Northeast Park neighborhood.
  - Provided input on the following neighborhood issues:
    - Traffic issues due to expansion of Yinghua charter school.
    - Rebuilding of the NE Park Rec building due to the closing of old building absorbed by Yinghua's expansion.
    - Communicated with microbreweries located in NE Park Neighborhood concerning licensing for outdoor concerts and expansion issues.
    - Maintained communication with Hillcrest Development concerning issues with tenants and in celebration of developments.

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

The biggest challenge continues to be engaging renters on a long-term basis. They are a more transient population. NEPNA seeks to engage renters via posting information about the organization's Annual Meeting on bulletin boards in common areas of apartment buildings, as well as through social media. NEPNA also shares information with the Second Precinct's Crime Prevention Specialist, who has connections with apartment managers.

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

The best way to do outreach into the Northeast Park neighborhood is via the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.northeastpark.org>
- Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Northeast-Park-Neighborhood-Association/182654927348?fref=ts>
- Email list
- *Northeaster* newspaper
- *Journal* newspaper
- Minneapolis Connects
- Second Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist

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

NEPNA does not use door-knocking, because it does not have a community organizer on staff, and it is difficult to find volunteers to do so. The NEPNA Board has talked about working in partnership with an adjacent neighborhood to do door-knocking around a specific issue, for example, identify specific crime and safety concerns, get feedback regarding the design of the new Northeast Park Recreation Center, or distribute flyers regarding NEPNA's housing programs.

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

Depending on the agenda items, between 5-15 people attend monthly board meetings. 7 people attend the 2013 Annual Meeting, which took place on December 11.

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

NEPNA has six volunteer board members. There are also a handful of other dedicated residents who regularly attend board meetings.

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

NEPNA's primary opportunity for people to participate in the work of the organization is through monthly board meetings and the annual meeting. NEPNA likely touches several hundred people on an annual basis in some way, shape or form.

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

NEPNA prepares a bi-monthly newsletter / flyer and mails it to approximately 250 households. NEPNA promotes its events through the newsletter, as well as the *Journal* and the *Northeaster* newspapers.

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

NEPNA distributes information regarding board meetings, neighborhood events and City of Minneapolis programs via its email list, Web site and Facebook page. NEPNA has 106 "likes" on its Facebook page.

## 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?
- Who was impacted?
- What steps did you take to address the issue or opportunity?
- What was the outcome?

The biggest highlight of 2013 was the redevelopment of 1500 Fillmore Street NE, a blighted property that was in desperate need of attention. NEPNA Board Chair Brian Steele connected the owner of the property with Hillcrest Development. Hillcrest Development already had a project in process on an adjacent lot. Hillcrest Development was able to negotiate a deal with the owners of 1500 Fillmore Street NE. Hillcrest Development cleaned up the exterior landscaping and completely rehabbed the interior. 1500 Fillmore Street NE is now home to two successful enterprises: Sociable Cider Werks and PKT Enterprises / Paraklatos, Incorporated. The surrounding neighborhood greatly appreciates the positive visual impact of the rehabilitated property. Moreover, the sound of patrons enjoying cider and/or beer on the outside patio adds life to a dead-end residential street.

### **3. 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?**

Below is a listing of NEPNA's major accomplishments in 2013:

- Provided financial support for Gardening Matters program.
- Reviewed a sign variance application for Michael's Arts and Crafts.
- Participated in discussions regarding the reuse/redevelopment of Minneapolis Public School's former administration building located at 807 Broadway.
- Participated in discussions regarding the redevelopment of 1500 Fillmore Street NE.
- Helped get the word out to neighborhood residents regarding the City's 2013 Tree Distribution Program.
- Attended the Neighborhood USA Conference in Minneapolis.
- Worked with Hillcrest Development on a landscaping plan for the south end of Polk Street where it dead-ends at Electro Mechanical Contracting.
- Worked with Hillcrest Development on Bauhaus Brew Labs and other projects as they came online.
- Held the annual meeting on December 11, 2013.
- Helped get the word out to neighborhood residents regarding the Central Avenue/Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Bridge reconstruction project.
- Discussed growing school enrollment trends with School Board member Jenny Arneson.
- Toured Sociable Cider Werks location in connection with their liquor license application.
- Monitored the Yinghua Academy construction project. A NEPNA Board member who is also an architect participated in meetings with Yinghua Academy.
- Reviewed RFP's for 1401 Central Avenue NE.
- Discussed possible joint event with Windom Park in 2014 (scheduled for August 9, 2014).
- Took a position on the 35W Sound wall project. Discouraged building the wall due to being the sole NE neighborhood that voted for it. Sent letters encouraging more to residents to vote. MNDOT decided against doing the project.

NEPNA is estimated to have impacted 600 plus residents living in the neighborhood over the past 12 months.

**4. Housing**

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

NEPNA spent 30% of its time between July 1, 2012 and December 31, 2013, discussing housing related issues.

**5. Financial Reports**

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

Please see attached 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?**

NEPNA reviews land use applications and liquor license applications. As a result, NEPNA spends time interacting with City staff people from CPED; including Planning and Zoning and Heritage Preservation, as well as Regulatory Services. NEPNA also works closely with City staff people at CPED Finance. Finally, NEPNA regularly communicates with its NCR Specialist Jack Whitehurst. Jack is always very responsive to questions from NEPNA Neighborhood Coordinator Christie Rock. He is always willing to provide input and advice. He is very diplomatic and thoughtful with his responses. He has attended several NEPNA Board meetings over the past 12 months. NEPNA looks forward to continuing the good relationship with Jack in 2014 and beyond.

**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

**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.**

Yes

**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? \_\_5\_\_**

**4. City Departments**

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

NEPNA communicates frequently with the City’s Regulatory Services Department with regards to liquor license applications, expansion of premises applications, and extended operating hours applications. NEPNA has been mostly satisfied with the communication related to liquor license applicants, but would encourage the department to require all licensing applicants to contact the neighborhood directly, well in advance to the public meeting notice being mailed and prior to the public hearing. NEPNA appreciates meeting with the applicant in advance of the public hearing. The NEPNA is hopeful the Regulatory Services Department will take this request to heart.

**5. City Assistance**

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

At this point, the NEPNA is satisfied with the assistance the NCR Department provides to the neighborhood.

**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?**

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