

Community Participation Program 2013 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: West Calhoun Neighborhood Council

Contact person: Rhea Sullivan, Coordinator

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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?

WCNC outreach in 2013 included:

Periodic e-news and monthly meeting notices

A Spring *Wavelength* newsletter mailed to every resident

A postcard publicizing a Ward 13 City Council Candidate Forum

Regular updates to the www.westcalhoun.org website

Posters publicizing neighborhood events

Facebook posts

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

Businesses are one of our under-represented communities. We applied for the Great Streets Business District Support Program on behalf of the businesses of the Edge Business Association. The proposal included a customer survey, workshops for businesses, reprinting The Edge brochure and advertisements in the Southwest Journal. The grant was not chosen for funding.

Through mailings, email notices and posting notices in building lobbies, WCNC has reached more renters in the neighborhood. In 2013 we had five renters on the WCNC Board.

- Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful? Why?
The newsletter and postcards are probably our most successful tool for reaching residents because they are mailed to everyone in the neighborhood, including businesses.
- What did not work so well? Why?
Email may not be as effective because our list is not very big. We are working to gather more email addresses at neighborhood events.

- How many people did you reach through direct contact (door knocking, meetings, one-on-ones, etc.)?
I estimate that we reached approximately 30 people through direct contact, many through one of our very active Board members who regularly connects with people when he is out in the neighborhood.
- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?
Approximately 15.
- How many individuals participated in your organization's activities?
Approximately 275. This includes meetings & events.
- How many people receive your print publications?
1,560 households receive our print communications.
- How many people receive your electronic communications?
212 people receive our email communications.

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?

West Lake Station Walkabout on April 6, 2013

The issue facing the neighborhood is the future development of the West Lake Station of the Southwest LRT. Neighborhood residents and LRT passengers alike will be impacted by the station. The purpose of the Walkabout was to understand the lay of the land – to look at the access points and to see how people would get to the station on foot, by bicycle or bus. They also looked at how to cross safely. The West Lake Station will likely have the highest volume of people using it. It also creates the most challenges.

Approximately 40 people turned out for the event. Katie Walker from Hennepin County and Sam O'Connell and Sophia Ginis from Metropolitan Transit attended as well as neighborhood residents and other concerned citizens, representatives from the Calhoun Village commercial center, members of the CIDNA and WCNC neighborhood associations. The outcome was that a number of people (staff and residents alike) became more educated about the West Lake Station and the challenges of designing it so that it will provide a safe, pedestrian friendly environment for transit users.

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?

We designed a colorful new logo this year featuring three sailboards to represent the fact that our area is a mecca for sailboarders from around the country. We hope this eye-catching design will help get us more attention by rebranding the West Calhoun Neighborhood Council.

We also initiated a project to put up street signs at entrance points to the neighborhood featuring our colorful new logo. We want people to know when they are entering the neighborhood.

We adopted a stretch of the Midtown Greenway again in 2013 that stretches from Calhoun Village to Chowen Avenue. We held a Greenway Clean Up in partnership with Whole Foods in September 2013. Part of the focus was on weeding the Access Point park area.

WCNC helped host a Ward 13 candidate forum featuring the four candidates in the City Council election in October of 2013. The event was co-hosted with six other Ward 13 neighborhood associations and was moderated by Pam Telleen of the League of Women Voters Minneapolis. It took place at the Burroughs Elementary School. In attendance were candidates Linea Palmisano, Matt Perry, Missy Durant, and Bob Reuer. The outcome was that 160 Ward 13 residents were able to listen to the candidates and so were better prepared to vote.

We also initiated a project to refurbish the Midtown Greenway Access Point kiosk. The kiosk will be painted and new plexiglass will be added to make it usable. The kiosk will allow us to post an area map, information about our local businesses, our new logo and other information of interest to Midtown Greenway users.

Board member Kathy Cobb was a member of the Southwest LRT CAC, representing the interests of the neighborhood in the planning for the Southwest LRT. Many board members also attended several Southwest LRT open houses on behalf of the community. We also participated in the Park Board charrette regarding Calhoun-Isles connectivity.

4. *Housing*

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

0%. West Calhoun is a unique neighborhood in that there are few homes. Most of the neighborhood housing units are apartment buildings or condominiums.

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?

Most of our interactions were with NCR or with the Development Finance Division for contracting NRP and NCEC strategies and completing reimbursement requests. City staff were very helpful in answering questions and helping with those things.

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?

Usually. Long policy documents are difficult to wade through and I often wish for an abbreviated version that highlights the key points.

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.

Yes. We receive adequate notice of City 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? 4

4. ***City Departments***

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

They can continue communication about issues that affect West Calhoun neighborhood.

5. ***City Assistance***

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

They can clearly communicate the parameters of the use of CPP funds. There has been a lot of confusion about events and what we can and can't do.

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?*