

Community Participation Program 2014 Annual Report

Neighborhood Organization: Beltrami Neighborhood Council

Contact person: Vanessa Haight, Staff

Date of Board Approval: March 2, 2015

1. Stakeholder Involvement

Reviewing your CPP activities in 2014, Please provide information about:

- What outreach and engagement activities did you carry out in 2014?
 1. Asset Mapping Survey: The Beltrami Neighborhood Council (BNC) staff door knocked each residence two times as part of the asset mapping survey. We asked residents about their skills and interests in hopes of bringing people together around common themes.
 2. Community Garden: The BNC continued to lease plots in our community garden.
 3. Neighborhood Festival: We held a neighborhood festival in Beltrami Park with food, games, and fun. It was a great way for neighbors to come together and build relationships.
 4. We continued to market and promote the BNC Neighborhood Commercial Matching Grants Program. Two businesses applied for and were approved for the grant program in 2014.
 5. We appointed a Board Member to the Northeast Park Recreation Building Community Advisory Committee.
 6. We attended Northeast Ride to talk with the community about Beltrami.
 7. We began a monthly e-newsletter to updates residents on our email list with upcoming events, Beltrami History and important announcements.
 8. The BNC regularly updates its website and social media.
- How did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities in 2014?

The Beltrami Neighborhood Council is diverse in its representation. All board members work hard to reach out to their neighbors and invite them to attend meetings.

The BNC continued to lease plots in our community garden. The garden plots are used by a diverse group of people, including: Caucasian, Black, and Asian. We have a Polish immigrant and we have students. We have one garden plot offered at a reduced rate (EBT). The age range for the gardeners is quite diverse, from mid-twenties to 70+ years old.

When door-knocking as part of our survey collection, we spoke with many different residents from “under-represented communities”.

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

Door-knocking was a great way to reach residents we do not normally reach through our emails, website, social media, or our regular meetings. A bilingual Board Member went with staff to Spanish speaking homes to make connections with these residents and also translate the asset mapping survey.

- What did not work so well? Why?

We struggle with attendance at our monthly meetings.

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

Regular BNC Board Meetings: On average, the BNC had 1-3 visitors or residents in addition to regular Board Member attendance.

Door Knocking: 171 responses to survey, 12 people declined survey but talked with staff briefly.

One-on-one: Approximately 5 people

- How many individuals volunteered in organization activities?

Approximately 15 people volunteered in organization activities.

- How many individuals participated in your organization’s activities?

Festival: 150

Garden: 25

Business Grants: 2

Board Meetings: Average of 12 participants at each meeting, including Board

Committee Meetings: 3-4 individuals at each committee meeting (Events, Communication, Dog Park)

- How many people receive your print publications?

We mailed an advertisement for our summer festival to all Beltrami residents (521) through USPS First Class Mail.

- How many people receive your electronic communications?

Our e-newsletters and email announcements are mailed to 341 email addresses.

9. 2014 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 2014 Beltrami Fest and Halloween at Beltrami Park events were a big hit.

Summer Festival

All Beltrami residents were invited to a summer festival in Beltrami Park. The festival featured games, food at low-cost, free popcorn, free ice cream, beer from a local business, a bouncy house, games, an art project with local artist, community painting project, live music from neighborhood musicians, karaoke from a local bar, drumming circle, and booths with information from various organizations, including Webster school.

All residents were invited through an email and a mailed postcard. BNC Board Members and staff worked the food area, ticket sales, BNC booth and bouncy house – we had a lot of opportunity to interact with residents! We also held a drawing for prizes from local businesses as a way to get people to come to the BNC table and start a conversation.

Halloween at Beltrami Park

The BNC also hosted its first Halloween Event in Beltrami Park. Several Board Members dressed up and handed out candy and toothbrushes (both donated by local businesses) to kids that came to the park building. They also set-up haunted décor inside the building to add to the excitement. It was a popular event and was a destination for Beltrami kids who wanted to trick-or-treat.

Beltrami Summer Festival – August 2014



10. 2014 Accomplishments

Please provide information about your other accomplishments in 2014:

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

Hiring of Staff

After two years without staff, the BNC hired support staff in June of 2014. Staff assists the BNC with daily operations, strategic planning, and community outreach. Since joining us, our staff has helped us develop an organization budget, fiscal policies and procedures and an event manual. Additionally, we now post our agendas and minutes on our website. With paid staff, the BNC is able to be more efficient and engaged.

Asset Mapping Survey

Staff worked to help the BNC fulfill its desire to complete an asset mapping survey. During the summer of 2014, staff door-knocked every residence in Beltrami twice. Not only did we make connections that we do not make through other outreach methods, we were able to document skills and interests in the neighborhood. This information will be used to connect people in the neighborhood. In late 2014, the BNC organized Beltrami Knits (knitting/crochet group) and a Beltrami Jam (drumming circle) as a direct result of the asset mapping survey. Additionally, the BNC gained several very talented volunteers to assist with marketing, website design, website development, and general communications.

Individuals in our community are directly impacted by both the hiring of staff and the asset mapping survey. Staff is available to take phone calls, respond to emails and meet with residents. Through the survey, the BNC had great conversations with over 175 people. These conversations led to volunteering, problem solving and general education on what the BNC is.

11. Housing

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

The BNC spends an estimated 10% of its time on housing-related activities through monthly Board meetings, housing committee meetings, and housing loan activity.

12. Financial Reports

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

See attached.

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 BNC interacts often with Neighborhood and Community Relations. Staff (Jack Whitehurst and Robert Thompson) are always very responsive and helpful.

We also had an excellent presentation from Regulatory Services on rental housing in Beltrami. However, requested follow-up has not been responded to, even after several rounds of emails and phone calls.

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, for the most part. We enjoy the daily digest emails from the City - otherwise we feel overwhelmed with the amount of emails from the City.

We would like to see CPED use a more understandable template for their public hearing notices.

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.

Yes, for the most part. One major exception is Regulatory Service's follow-up.

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?

We would like to hear from other departments and not just NCR. Other departments are typically responsive to our requests but they don't usually reach out to us.

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 would like more assistance connecting with underrepresented communities within Beltrami.

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?***

We had the same comment in 2013: The questions asked in the CPP Annual Report seem to be the same or very similar each year. We do not seem to get any feedback on our suggestions or concerns. We would suggest a conversation in addition to this reporting form.