

2011 Annual Report

From: Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace (CCMT)

To: NCR (Neighborhood and Community Relations Department)

Date: September 14, 2012

Contents:

1. Accomplishments:

- CCMT determined that our neighborhood residents did not wish for the proposed relocation of the Salvation Army worship center and main distribution center and housing for 128 men recovering from chemical dependence and homelessness to a building at Marshall Street Northeast and St. Anthony Parkway and worked together with Columbia Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) to get the proposal voted down at the City of Minneapolis zoning meeting.
- Marshall Terrace welcomed the new Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership building at 2522 Marshall Street Northeast. Marshall Terrace residents had also helped to support the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) with their building design by writing letters to Minneapolis Zoning.
- CCMT was proud to have the active participation of Xcel Energy in our neighborhood. Xcel Energy had great success with their open house this summer. Jim Schellberg from Xcel has kept us informed about the updates for the Xcel Riverside Plant and Xcel's continuous work with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) to upgrade the ball fields located on Xcel land at Marshall Street and St. Anthony Boulevard as well as improvements on the land south of the ball fields extending to the area called the Xcel Pavilion or Brady Park.
- CCMT participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program through the Minnesota Department of Transportation. In May and October 2011, many neighborhood volunteers picked up litter along both sides of University Avenue (or Minnesota Highway 47) from 27th Avenue Northeast to 37th Avenue Northeast.
- In April, CCMT organized a clean-sweep effort, and neighbors cleaned up litter along the river in the Marshall Terrace neighborhood.
- We kept our neighbors informed about the City of Minneapolis proposed waste station by University Avenue and 27th Avenue Northeast through our newsletter and at neighborhood meetings. (The City has now abandoned their plan to use the location as a transfer station and currently intend to use it as a waste facility that collects a much smaller volume of household hazardous waste only. We will be learning more about this in the next few months as the County's plans and the City's approval process move forward.)
- We welcomed many neighborhood residents at National Night Out on August 2, 2011, and to a holiday party on December 9, 2011.

- We eagerly watched the construction of the Lowry Avenue Bridge with pride and kept our neighborhood informed. We have also attended meetings and kept track of the developments in the reconstruction plans for the St. Anthony Bridge and informed our neighborhood residents of the progress.

- Marshall Terrace continued to contribute to a highly successful and beautiful community garden and tree farm in Marshall Terrace.

2. 2011 CPP Submission:

For CPP Contract number 35093, it appears that CCMT did not receive any funds in 2011. (However, for 2012, we have submitted and received payments and/or approval for \$30,131.17.)

We still have money available in the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) Home Loan Program. Due to inactivity in the program, we are currently investigating making the terms of the loans more competitive with other loans in order to generate more interest.

3. Stakeholder Involvement

We reached out to and involved under-represented communities through invitations to neighborhood organization meetings, newsletters, voice mail, telephone calls, neighborhood events, maintenance of a website and visiting with neighbors throughout the neighborhood. Visiting with under-represented groups in our neighborhood seems to work well to engage them in taking an interest in Marshall Terrace plans and activities.

A. In 2011, CCMT had only five Board members. As our Bylaws require that [t]he number of Directors shall be no fewer than six (6) and up to ten (10), we had at least one vacancy on the Board in 2011, although we do currently have six board members in 2012.

B. As far as how many individuals have participated in committee meetings in the past year, at least three CCMT members have been involved in other committees important to Marshall Terrace and have regularly informed us at monthly meetings about environmental, park and bike-way updates, tree farm and community garden updates, waterfront planning and Xcel park plans.

We had five members on the committee to plan the NNO in August 2011, and we had four members on the committee to plan our holiday party in December 2011.

C. Eleven CCMT members attended our annual meeting on April 19, 2012.

D. We had about 600 households and about 35 businesses that regularly received our Marshall Terrace Minutes newsletter in 2011. We were able to inform our neighborhood about many activities available to them in the area including dinners, educational events, park activities, recycling, dance and theater, films and art through our website, our neighborhood meetings and through the distribution of our neighborhood newsletter, the Marshall Terrace Minutes.

E. Many residents from Marshall Terrace neighborhood participated in other activities in cooperation with CCMT including about six residents involved in the community garden and tree farm in Marshall Terrace, about four people involved with the St. Anthony Bridge CAC and two people involved in the AFCAC (Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee), activities that have been determined to be important to Marshall Terrace residents. We have also been proud to have a Marshall Terrace resident appointed by City Council Member Kevin Reich to the Citizen Review Board.

Shambhala Meditation Center, a Buddhist meditation center in Marshall Terrace contributed an enlightening full-page article to our newsletter in March of 2012.

We recognized our neighbor Wayne Novitsky as the Most Valuable Neighbor and Jim Schellberg of Xcel Energy's Riverside Plant as the Most Valuable Business Neighbor for 2011.

At least ninety-seven residents attended our National Night Out on August 2, 2011, and at least 36 people attended our holiday party on December 9, 2011.

4. Financial Reports

In 2011, CCMT received funds from the City of Minneapolis Community Participation Program (CPP) and a monetary contribution from Xcel Energy for \$1200.

Due to staffing changes, complete financial income and expense reports for CCMT for the year 2011 are currently not available. CCMT will work to remedy this by the end of 2012.

Summary of interactions with City Departments and other jurisdictions

1. Impact: What interactions occupied a major part of your time? What worked well, what could be improved?

Meetings and discussion occupied the majority of the time for CCMT. We were successful in bringing neighborhood issues to light and informing our Marshall Terrace neighbors. We need to work more on strategizing and generating plans from our discussions.

2. City Communications – effectiveness: Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

The information that we receive from the City is usually quite understandable and useful.

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.

Information from the City is readily available through emails, good media coverage and web sites.

4. City Departments: How can City departments improve the way in which they function in your neighborhood?

It might be good to get representatives from the Police Department and/or the City Attorney's office to discuss with our neighborhood safe and legal methods for surveillance and discouraging criminal activity in our neighborhood. Even though Marshall Terrace is one of the safest neighborhoods in Minneapolis, we could use help to discourage burglaries.

5. City Assistance: How can the neighborhood and Community Relations Department improve the assistance it provides to your organization as a citizen participation group?

We feel that our NCR representative has gone above and beyond the call of duty by providing additional documentation and helpful suggestions that we have inquired about. It is also helpful when our NCR representative has made us aware of what other neighborhood groups are doing, upon request. We are spending some effort to catch up for some bookkeeping and planning problems that we have inherited from past years, and we intend to make good use of the ideas and help from NCR.

6. Other comments:

Please let us know if more details or a different format are required for this information.

Respectfully submitted, Marie Meyer, CCMT Secretary