

**Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association
Community Participation Program
2011-12 Annual Report**

1. Accomplishments

Major accomplishments of the BMNA during this time focused on environmental projects: Solar and Rain Gardens. Improving the environment has been a primary strategy of our NRP Program since its inception, and these specific programs came to be during this reporting period. With both programs we hosted informational sessions for neighbors to learn details on how to participate. Company experts on solar energy and rain garden systems were on hand to share their expertise. In the end, over 100 solar panels were installed in Bryn Mawr resulting in about 5,000 kilowatt hours per month generated. With regard to Rain Gardens, popularity in the neighborhood was so high we expanded the program. Over 30 Rain Garden/Water Management Systems were installed in Bryn Mawr, involving both residents and businesses.

During this time the BMNA downtown business near Cedar Lake Road and Penn Avenue received attention as more NRP programming was implemented. We collaborated with Public Works resulting in the installation of beautiful street lighting with BMNA banners displaying our website. The LED lighting system installed is state-of-the-art and represents a city of Minneapolis pilot program aimed at reducing maintenance and energy costs. For residents and businesses, this area is now well-lit and safer.

In addition, we partnered with the Harrison Neighborhood Association in our annual Earth Day Cleanup. The area along Bassett's Creek and Wirth Lake were the locations improved during the event.

2. 2011 CPP Submission

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, what outreach and engagement activities did you carry out? What worked well, and what did not work so well? Why?

The BMNA hosted 7 major neighborhood events during 2011 which attracted engaged a great number of our residents as well as those from nearby neighborhoods. In total, we calculated about 50% of Bryn Mawr residents attended at least 1 of our events. Many of us, especially board members, attended each and every one. These events included the Annual Potluck Dinner, Festival of Garage Sales, Ice Cream Scoop-Off, Sip and Stroll, Harvest Dinner, Saturnalia, Annual Dinner, Board Elections and a new event called Pedal to Petals, a public garden education tour. The Sip and Stroll, designed to bring neighbors and local businesses together was well attended as over 150 residents participated. Saturnalia, previously funded by the business association, was taken over by the BMNA and became the work of a small committee to improve it. More than 200 neighbors attended!

Much effort went into a neighborhood-wide grassroots plan to improve energy efficiency and increase value of our housing stock. Partnering with the Center for

Energy and the Environment, we developed a door-to-door plan to encourage participation in home energy audits and make related home improvements. The program was successful, resulting in our recognition by the City of Minneapolis at an awards ceremony with other neighborhoods.

Bryn Mawr became an HourCar location during this time. A vehicle was placed in the Anwatin/Bryn Mawr school parking lot for neighbors to utilize, with an initial membership of 25 households. Although not accepted into the NiceRide bike sharing project, we continue to reach out to the directors of this program. Bike ridership continues to rise, as does our neighborhood interest in getting a hub.

We came to the conclusion that one underutilized component of our volunteer base rests with our neighborhood representatives on our executive board. We are exploring ways to support their outreach efforts and expand communication with the neighborhood.

3. *Stakeholder Involvement*

Reviewing your submission for CPP funds for 2011, how did you reach out to and involve under-represented communities? Did you find any strategies to be particularly successful?

As mentioned earlier, we found that door-to-door engagement of residents in Bryn Mawr can be very effective. Our Energy Audit Project demonstrated that folks will talk to us. We also installed a community bulletin board near our busiest bus stop to communicate with residents in a new way.

We formed a Communications Committee which replaces our Bugle Committee. Although the Bugle continues to be a successful communication tool for us, with over 1,415 household recipients, we acknowledge the need to expand communication into multiple formats.

Currently we have 21 members serving on our executive board with no vacancies. We consistently have 35 members participating and working at the committee level. At our annual meeting we hosted nearly 110 residents at the school. Every one of our 1,415 households receives the monthly Bugle, including each business that has Bryn Mawr property. We continually reach out to over 600 members by email, 360 use the electronic bulletin board NextDoor Bryn Mawr, and our Facebook page has over 250 members. We have 25 followers on Twitter.

4. *Financial Reports*

Attached you will find our specific CPP expense detail reports for this time period and Profit and Loss Statements for 2011 and 2012.

In addition to your annual report, please take time to describe your 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?

In general, we find most of our communications were with City of Minneapolis personnel, County and State officials and departments, and other Neighborhood Associations. It was valuable that our City Council Representative, Lisa Goodman, attended nearly every Board Meeting in Bryn Mawr and provided useful information to members. We sometimes get frustrated with our inability to attend open meetings of interest due to limited resources or issues with scheduling. A positive outcome resulted when we engaged masters students from the Humphrey Institute on the Capstone Project, a project designed to engage students on planning and policy issues regarding development of the Penn Avenue Southwest Light Rail Station.

2. *City Communications – effectiveness*

Is the information that you receive from the City understandable and useful?

Yes, in general. We have noticed the improvement in the City of Minneapolis web page and its ease of use. As we continue to turn over volunteers on our board we have found city personnel, especially neighborhood departments, very good at explaining programs and initiatives that are available.

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.

We cannot think of specific cases during this time period, but do feel comfortable communicating issues like this should they arise.

4. *City Departments*

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

Simply be mindful of our presence as an organization with similar goals and that we are a neighborhood that likes to be informed.

5. *City Assistance*

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

Attend and participate in neighborhood association meetings a few times each year, especially as important reporting deadlines approach.