



**Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA)
Neighborhood Priority Plan
October 2013**

PPNA Background

PPNA works to enhance the quality of life in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood by facilitating community engagement, embracing a diversity of voices, and fostering economic and community development.

PPNA was established in 1982 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization to strengthen the Powderhorn Park neighborhood, a south Minneapolis community bounded by Lake Street, Cedar Avenue, 38th Street, and Chicago Avenue. Since then, PPNA has built connections between members (defined as residents, property owners, businesses, and employees) and worked to support their collective efforts to address community concerns.

**Neighborhood Priority Plan:
SUN Project Priority Agenda**

Formed in 2011, the seven neighborhood organizations of the Southside United Neighborhoods (SUN) Project explores strategic partnership opportunities that will improve operating efficiencies and ensure long-term sustainability of the sector while improving our capacity to engage, build grassroots leadership and affect policy change. The SUN Project advocates for policy and system change within the Minneapolis governmental sector to better serve the needs of our eleven neighborhoods.

SUN Project partner organizations include: Bancroft Neighborhood Association, Bryant Neighborhood Organization, Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, Longfellow Community Council, PPNA and Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association.

With initial support from the McKnight Foundation, SUN Partners developed a set of standard expectations for highly effective neighborhood associations, support for internal implementation, joint staff and board training, and opportunities for collaborative projects.

With unanimous endorsement from the seven Boards in early 2013, the SUN Project now directs its efforts to advancing a shared public policy agenda. The SUN Project neighborhoods are served by over a dozen county commissioners, city council members, park commissioners and Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission representatives.



Over the past few months, our communities, boards and staff have created a long list of policy objectives impacting the entire South Minneapolis area. In October, the SUN Project selected three agenda items for 2013-2014 based on organization capacity, neighborhood need and feasibility.

SUN Project Priority Agenda Items

- **Multi-Family Housing**
Assess and improve multifamily housing and to equip and activate its tenants. Access governmental and nonprofit resources to improve the quality of housing in our neighborhoods;
- **Programmatic Equity from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)**
Address a decline in MPRB responsiveness to our community's demographic changes and desires for programming as well as cutbacks to park hours, program offerings and maintenance; and
- **Property Inspections**
Improve responsiveness of the City's Property Inspections work and communication.

The seven SUN Project neighborhood organizations identify the following goals:

- The staff and boards of the SUN Project members will gain greater understanding of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) in terms of decision making processes, key stakeholders, communication avenues and effective advocacy on behalf of the residents and businesses in our eleven neighborhoods.
- By establishing solid relationships with elected officials, the SUN Project will share its knowledge of existing and emerging issues in our communities, communicate with elected officials, and together, affect positive change.
- Schedule regular meetings with the city council members to discuss issues in multi-family housing and property inspections. SUN Project members will understand the City resources and opportunities to better utilize on behalf of our communities.
- Schedule regular meetings with the MPRB commissioners to discuss MPRB communication with communities served, program equity and implementation of the MPRB Community Outreach Department Framework. Establish a collaborative process to affect positive change for residents and businesses.
- Evaluate these goals and results to determine progress and effectiveness. Remain flexible and open to opportunities.



The SUN Project plans to invite the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, City Council Members and department staff to work on these issues together, thereby enhancing these partnerships and improving service from the City.

In the 2012-2013 Community Participation Program (CPP) Funding Cycle, PPNA allocated \$0 for the Neighborhood Priority Plan.