



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor



Neighborhood STAR Program
1400 City Hall Annex
25 West Fourth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone: 651-266-7827
Facsimile: 651-228-3220

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Coleman
Council President Lantry
Members of the City Council

FROM: Ray Hess, Acting Chair *RH*
Neighborhood STAR Board

DATE: August 23, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011 NEIGHBORHOOD STAR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM

Background

On August 10, 2011, the Neighborhood STAR Board reviewed six (6) proposals requesting funding through the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program. The first was an application from Plums Neighborhood Grill and Bar to utilize \$35,000 in grant funds to rehabilitate their existing patio space. Leverage pledged to this project equals \$35,000. Next, was a proposal for a \$25,000 forgivable loan and a \$15,000 pay-back loan to create a new Colossal Café in Saint Anthony Park. Matching dollars pledged to this initiative is \$410,000. Third was Historic Saint Paul's proposal to utilize \$10,000 of STAR funds to relocate a chicken coop to Skidmore Park to be used as a storage facility. Leverage pledged to this initiative equals \$128,000. Finally, three city parks projects would utilize a total of \$456,251 in STAR grant dollars to replace playground and skate park equipment. There are no matching dollars for these three initiatives.

Presentations

Dan McQuillan, owner of Plums Grill and Bar explained their plans to update the 17 year-old patio at this well established neighborhood meeting place with the removal of a dead tree, new landscaping and better visibility from Randolph Avenue. Questions regarding the neighbors and Community Council's lack of support were discussed along with their need for grant instead of loan dollars due to the recent purchase of the establishment from his parents.

John, Elisabeth and Carrie Tinucci, owners of Colossal Café described their year-old restaurant in Minneapolis and plans for a 50 to 55 seat café with a similar menu and hours of operation in the Saint Anthony Park neighborhood. When asked about the possibility of restructuring their request to include a higher pay-back loan component, John responded that STAR is basically the gap financing needed after factoring in their personal financing and the total available through bank financing.

Becca Hine, Program Coordinator with Historic Saint Paul presented their proposal to relocate a 13' by 11'6" historic chicken coop from the site of a home in Dayton's Bluff to Skidmore Park. The building will be renovated and used for storage. Matching dollars pledged to this project will be used for the home's rehabilitation.

Brad Meyer, Parks Public Service Manager, described the three CIB proposals. The plan is to use existing skate park equipment in the new skate park at Front Playground if possible. The new play equipment in Como Park will replace 20-year old equipment. Of the three proposals, the replacement of existing 16-year old play structure in downtown Saint Paul will be the first completed.

Discussion

Board Members were overall supportive of the Colossal Café and Plum's Patio proposal. Therefore, in an effort to rank the proposals favorably, a motion was made, seconded and passed to change the structure of STAR funding for these two proposals to adhere to the Neighborhood STAR Guideline requiring all for-profit entities to receive at least 50% of STAR funding in the form of a pay back loan.

Discussion of Historic Saint Paul's chicken coop proposal included the fact that the historic value is diminished when a historic structure is moved and refurbished. In addition, when comparing the high cost associated with moving and rehabilitating this old building, a more fiscally responsible approach for the city may be for STAR to assist with the purchase and installation of a new storage shed for Skidmore Park instead.

Rating

The Neighborhood STAR Board rated the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program proposals on their own merit on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high) with the following results:

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Forgivable Loan/Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>
4.9	Colossal Café	\$ 20,000	\$20,000
4.8	Plum's Patio	17,500	17,500
2.8	Como Regional Play Area	100,000	
2.6	Front Skate Park	350,000	
2.5	Downtown Children's Play Area	106,251	
1.1	Skidmore Park/Chicken Coop	10,000	

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions, or if staff can provide you with additional information, please call:

Michele Swanson, x66574

Bob Hammer – x66693

CC: Becca Hines
 Brad Meyer
 John Tinucci
 Dan McQuillan

An Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer