



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin W. Carter III, Mayor



Neighborhood STAR Program
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Carter
Council President Brendmoen
Members of the City Council

FROM: Charlie VanderAarde, Vice Chair
Neighborhood STAR Board

CVA
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DATE: August 16, 2019

SUBJECT: 2019 NEIGHBORHOOD STAR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM

Background

On August 14, 2019, the Neighborhood STAR Board reviewed six (6) proposals requesting grant funding through the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program. First was a proposal from *The Summit Hill Association* requesting \$5,000 for an Alley Blind Spot Safety Program. A match of \$0 was pledged to this initiative. Next, was a \$11,573 proposal from *The Union Park District Council* for funding to rename the Western District Police Station. Matching funds pledged to this proposal equaled \$0. Third, was a \$48,000 grant request from *North American Art Publishing* for building improvements. No matching dollars were pledged to this project. Next, a \$5,000 grant was being requested by the *St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce* for the greening of Rice & Larpenteur. A match of \$0 was pledged. Next, \$1,480 request from the *Highland District Council* for a public art project. A match of \$5,000 was pledged. Finally, a \$3,500 grant request from *CPR Foods, LLC* to install a security camera outside of Bay Street Grill. Matching funds of \$3,500 were pledged to this initiative.

Presentations

Peter Rhoades, Vice President, Summit Hill Association, presented their proposal to purchase and install 100 parabolic mirrors on private property to assist with visibility and safety at alleyway intersections. After extensive research, 20 to 30 of the most critical intersections have been identified. The responsibility of maintenance or replacement would be with the property owner.

Next, Sr. Commander John Bandemer, St. Paul Police Department, presented Union Park District Council's proposal to re-name the western police station located at 389 Hamline Avenue to honor the city's first African American Chief of Police, Chief William K. Finney. STAR funding would cover new exterior lettering and an inside bronze wall plaque. On-going maintenance would be provided by police staff.

Third, Greg Hennes, proprietor of North American Art Publishing, Inc. located in the old Hamms complex at 717 East Minnehaha Avenue shared his ongoing efforts to upgrade their current space. Plans are to consolidate their Minneapolis and St. Paul locations and create separate sections for the production staff and showroom/office area.

Fourth was a presentation by Kim O'Brien, Director of Strategic Initiatives for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce on a proposal to install permanent planters on the parking lot located at the southwest corner of Larpenteur Avenue and Rice Street. Ten, 34" round planters will be purchased and three additional planters will be donated from the downtown Central Light Rail Station to create a visually attractive separation between road traffic and the commercial property. Volunteers will do the planting and the property owner will take care of watering and maintenance.

Kathy Carruth, Executive Director of the Highland District Council was up next to explain their extensive efforts to raise funds needed to reimburse the artist for his expenditures on the newly installed lighted public art benches at Ford Parkway and Cleveland Avenue. Year-Round STAR funds would be used cover final project costs.

Finally, Carlos Rhode, General Manager of Bay Street Grill explained their need for an exterior security camera near their commercial establishment at 731 Randolph Avenue. In an effort to reduce criminal activity. Once installed, the camera will cover the building and the surrounding neighborhood, and connect to the Saint Paul police department's surveillance system.

Discussion and Recommendations

Although STAR Board Members were supportive of proposed activities, they were unable to recommend funding for the Alley Safety Project, Renaming the Western District Police Station, North American Art consolidation, or the Greening of Rice and Larpenteur due to City Council-approved Neighborhood STAR Guidelines requiring grant funds be matched on a minimum \$1 for \$1 with non-city resources. In addition, members were unable to recommend the Highland Public Art Project due to STAR Guidelines not allowing STAR dollars to cover past debt expenditures.

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>Ward</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Loan</u>
4.8	Bay Street Grill Security	2	\$ 3,500	\$0
4.8	North American Art	6	\$48,000	\$0
4.7	Greening Rice & Larpenteur	5	\$ 5,000	\$0
4.6	Renaming the Western District	1	\$11,573	\$0
3.8	Highland Public Art Project	3	\$ 1,480	\$0
3.5	Summit Hill Alley Safety	2	\$ 5,000	\$0

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

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Nancy Vang, x66474

CC: Summit Hill Association;
 Union Park District Council;
 North American Art Publishing, Inc.;
 St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce;
 Highland District Council;
 CPR Foods, LLC.

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