



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Melvin Carter, Mayor

25 West Fourth Street, Ste. 1300
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Telephone: 651-266-6565

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Derek Anders-Turner, Chair, Neighborhood STAR Board

DATE: April 24, 2020

SUBJECT: 2020 NEIGHBORHOOD STAR YEAR-ROUND PROGRAM

Background

On April 17, 2020, the Neighborhood STAR Board reviewed four proposals requesting grant funding through the Neighborhood STAR Year-Round Program. First was a proposal from the Frogtown Neighborhood Association requesting \$4,606.50 to purchase and install additional fencing at the Minnehaha Recreation Center. A match of \$0 was pledged to this initiative. Next was a \$5,000 proposal from District 6 Planning Council to purchase solar lights for North End homeowners and businesses. No matching funds were pledged to this proposal. Third, a proposal from Safe City, Inc. requesting \$5,990 to add water accessibility for community gardens on the southwest corner of Dale Street and Lafond Avenue. Matching funds of \$8,650 were pledged to this project. Finally, Big River Pizza applied for a \$5,000 grant to replace their roof top HVAC system. A match of \$28,000 was pledged.

Discussion

First reviewed was the request to install 50 additional feet of chain link fencing between new basketball courts and Minnehaha Avenue at the Minnehaha Recreation Center. The additional fencing would increase safety by preventing basketballs from rolling into a busy street. Next, was the North End Solar Lighting Program Phase 2 funding proposal to continue District 6 Planning Council's successful 2018 program. Phase 1 of this program distributed 99 solar lights to area homeowners and one light to a local business. Third was the Watering the Lily Pad proposal to add on-site water service for the existing community gardens. Currently, there is a one-year garden lease with the HRA for this property with plans to sign a 7-year lease if STAR funding is approved. Discussion on this application included best use of commercial land at busy intersections, the economic benefit of community gardens and the city's long-term sustainability goals. Finally, the STAR Board reviewed Big River Pizza's request for STAR funding to bridge the gap between insurance proceeds and the total cost to replace the rooftop HVAC system after fire damaged the building.

Recommendations

STAR funding could not be recommended for the Minnehaha Basketball Fence or the North End Lighting Project II due to Neighborhood STAR Guidelines requiring grant funds be matched on a minimum \$1 for \$1 basis.

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>
4.25	Big River Pizza	2	\$5,000.00	\$0
3.43	W. Minnehaha Basketball Fencing	1	4,606.50	\$0
3.25	North End Solar Lighting Project 2	5	5,000.00	\$0
2.75	Watering the Lily Pad	1	5,990.00	\$0

Thank you for your continued support and assistance. If you have questions, or if staff can provide additional information, please contact Michele Swanson, 6-6574 or Nancy Vang, 6-6474.

CC: District 7 Frogtown Neighborhood Association;
District 6 Planning Council;
Safe City, Inc.
Big River Pizza