

# **HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA**

**REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: AUGUST 23, 2017**

**REGARDING: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CONDUIT MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REVENUE NOTES AND AUTHORIZATING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO FINALIZE THE BOND DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION BY THE APPROPRIATE HRA OFFICERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EUCLID VIEW FLATS (234-238 BATES AVENUE) PROJECT, DISTRICT 4, WARD 7**

## **Requested Board Action**

The HRA Board is requested to approve the following:

1. Authorizing the sale of up to \$4,000,000 in conduit tax exempt housing revenue notes.
2. Authorizing the Executive Director to finalize the bond documents for execution by the appropriate HRA Officers.

## **Background**

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of the City of Saint Paul (HRA) acquired the bank foreclosed 234-238 Bates Avenue property in July 2011 from First National Community Bank of Hudson, WI for \$346,000. The property, which had been heavily vandalized, has been vacant since 2010.

In May of 2013, the HRA issued a Request for Proposals for rehabilitation of the historic 12-unit property known as Euclid Flats. Three proposals were received. The HRA Board awarded Sand Companies, Inc. tentative developer status in August 2013 and full developer status in December 2014. The development agreement between the HRA Board and Sand Companies, Inc. expired on July 2015.

In March 2016, St Paul Euclid, LLC (Sand Companies) updated their original proposal to include historic rehabilitation requirements. They hired an historic consultant and were able to have the property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The costs associated with this process and the historic rehabilitation requirements resulted in a gap of up to \$750,000. The developer has requested gap financing of \$750,000 and the purchase of the HRA property for

\$1.00. This request required staff to issue a notification through the ENS which was sent out on March 24, 2016. On May 5, 2016, an additional proposal was received for the property. On July 27, 2016, the HRA Board granted tentative developer status to Sand Companies.

The twelve (12) housing units will be tax credit units affordable to households as follows:

Size and Income /Rent Limits of Units:

Size	# of units	Gross Rent	Rent Limit	Income Limit
2 BR	3	\$1,018	50%AMI	50%AMI*
2 BR	9	\$1,221	60%AMI	60%AMI
Total	12			

\*Areawide Median Income

The property is currently zoned RM2 – Medium Density Multifamily Residential District and the proposed project use is permitted in this district.

See **Attachment –District 4 Profile** for a demographic profile of Dayton’s Bluff - District 4, the Saint Paul planning district in which the Property is located. No existing businesses will be displaced or relocated as a result of this project, and there was no land acquisition that took place as a result of eminent domain.

**Budget Action**

The current breakdown of the \$750,000 loan is \$591,753 in CDBG and \$158,247 in Pooled TIF. The TIF funds are already budgeted and the CDBG funds will be allocated through the AO process. If this resolution is approved there will be a remaining uncommitted CDBG fund balance of \$150,000. This balance includes 2017 grant funds. There will be a current balance of \$1,121,834 of pooled TIF for affordable housing, which includes first half 2017 TIF receipts.

**Future Action:** NA

## **Financing Structure**

### HRA Property Sale

Sands Company is requesting to purchase the Property for \$1. A Development Agreement will provide the terms and conditions of this transaction.

### Housing Revenue Bonds

On August 2, 2017, the City Council conducted a public hearing and authorized preliminary approval for issuance of the housing revenue bonds for the Project. There is a total of up to \$4,000,000 in tax-exempt bond authority being requested for final approval structured into three series:

Series A Bonds: The Series A Bonds will be in an amount of not more than \$621,000. The bonds will be tax-exempt and have an initial term of 18 years and 8 months with an amortization of 30 years. The estimated interest rate will be 5.61%. The A Bonds will be secured by a first mortgage on the property and will be purchased by MidCountry Bank.

Series B Bonds: In order to receive 4% automatic tax credits, the project must meet the 53% test which requires that at least 53% of the Developers total basis be initially financed with bond proceeds. The B Bonds have a principal amount of \$1,675,000 with a 2 year term with interest only payments due monthly. The Bond's interest rate will be set at the time of closing. It is estimated that the interest rate will be about 5.61%. The bonds will be subordinate tax-exempt and paid off with tax credit equity installments. This is a temporary source of funds and not shown in the attached sources and uses. These bonds will be purchased by MidCountry Bank.

Series C Bonds: In order to receive 4% automatic tax credits, the project must meet the 53% test which requires that at least 53% of the Developers total basis be initially financed with bond proceeds. The C Bonds have a principal amount of \$346,387 with a 2 year term with interest only payments due monthly. The

Bond's interest rate will be set at the time of closing. It is estimated that the interest rate will be between 5.61% and 6%. The bonds will be subordinate taxable and paid off with tax credit equity installments. This is a temporary source of funds and not shown in the attached sources and uses. These bonds will be purchased by MidCounty Bank.

**This is a conduit bond issue. The bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness, liability, general or moral obligation, or pledge of the faith or credit or taxing power of the HRA, City of Saint Paul, or any agency or political subdivision thereof, and shall not constitute indebtedness of any of the foregoing within the meaning of any constitutional, statutory, or charter provision, nor be a charge against their respective general assets, credit or taxing powers, and do not grant the owners or holders of the bonds any right to have the HRA, City of Saint Paul or any agency or political subdivision thereof to levy any taxes or appropriate any funds for the payment of the principal thereof or interest thereon. Principal and interest on the bonds are payable solely out of the revenues and other sources pledged to the payment thereof as described in the bond documents.**

#### Low Income Tax Credits (LIHTC)

The 4% LIHTC are to be purchased by WNC & Associates for \$.83 per dollar and WNC & Associates will become the Limited Partner. The tax credit equity will come in over time for a total contribution of \$1,224,572.

#### Deferred Developer Fee

In order to maximize the amount of tax credit equity, the Developers are requesting the maximum fee under the City's Developer Fee Guidelines and will include this fee as eligible tax credit basis. A portion of the Developer Fee or \$115,690 will be deferred and paid over a period of 15 years through excess cash flow.

### \$750,000 CDBG/Pooled TIF Loan

The \$750,000 CDBG/Pooled TIF loan will be structured as a 2% deferred loan for 30 years. This loan will be in 2nd position behind the MidCounty Bank's \$621,000 loan.

The \$750,000 loan will have two different funding sources – CDBG and Pooled TIF. The final break down between the CDBG Funds and the Pooled TIF funds will be determined at the time of closing. PED staff would like to maximize the amount of CDBG funds into this loan. If the HRA receives additional CDBG funds prior to the closing, the CDBG funds will be inserted into the loan and the equivalent amount of Pooled TIF will be reduced.

### Federal Historic Tax Credits

The Federal Historic Tax Credits will be purchased by WNC & Associates for \$1.00 per dollar and WNC & Associates will become the Limited Partner. The tax credit equity will come in over time for a total contribution of \$884,959.

### State Historic Tax Credits

In order to keep the MN State Historic Tax Credits from creating "income" to the project, these credits are awarded to a non-profit entity, who in turn loans the credits to the limited partnership. In this case, the Minnesota Historic Tax Credits will be awarded to Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, a 501(c)(3) organization. Preservation Alliance of Minnesota will then create PAM Euclid, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company who will then loan St Paul Euclid, LLC the funds. The term of this loan will be 40 years at .1% with annual interest payments. The State Historic Tax Credits are in the amount of \$885,047.

### Managing Member Loan

The members of the St Paul Euclid, LLC will be inserting \$255,000 in to the project as a loan. This amount was the final financial gap need for this project to be fully funded. The term of the loan will be 30 years at 2.75%.

<u>SOURCE</u>		<u>USES</u>	
Housing Revenue Bonds/LIHTC	\$1,249,571	HRA Owned Land	\$ 1
First Mortgage	\$ 621,000	Rehabilitation Const.	\$2,670,000
Deferred Developer Fee	\$ 115,000	Contractor Fee	\$ 362,600
CDBG/TIF Deferred Loan	\$ 750,000	Const. Contingency	\$ 328,662
Managing Member Loan	\$ 255,010	Enviro Clean Up	\$ 25,000
HRA Land Sale Loan	\$ 1	Professional Fees	\$ 373,225
State Historic Tax Credits	\$ 885,047	Developer Fee	\$ 610,000
Federal Historic Tax credits	<u>\$ 884,959</u>	Syndication Fees	\$ 23,000
		Financing Costs	\$ 300,000
		Replacement Reserves	<u>\$ 68,100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,760,588</b>		<b>\$4,760,588</b>

Summary of Estimated Permanent Sources and Uses for the Project is shown on **Attachment - Sources and Uses Summary.**

### **PED Credit Committee Review**

On July 24, 2017, the Credit Committee reviewed the Project and determined that the issuance of Multifamily Revenue Bonds meets the HRA policy.

### **Compliance**

The Applicant has signed the compliance letters regarding the Project. The Project will comply with the following programs and/or requirements: Vendor Outreach Program, Affirmative Action, Federal Labor Standards, Project Labor Agreement, Section 3, Limited English Proficiency, and Two Bid Policy. The Project is exempt from the following: Business Subsidy based on the small business exemption; Living Wage based on the number of employees; and Sustainable Green Policy based on the renovation.

### **Green/Sustainable Development**

Saint Paul Sustainable Development Policy is not required for this project. However, the building renovation will go through Xcel Energy's Design Assistance and Energy Efficient

Buildings Programs with The Weidt Group and will be in compliance with Minnesota Green Communities standards.

### **Historic Preservation**

The property is located in the Dayton's Bluff Heritage Preservation District and is categorized as pivotal to the character of the district. The Saint Paul Historic Preservation Commission will review and approve the proposed rehabilitation plan prior to the HRA closing on the sale of the property. On December 23, 2013, Sand Companies secured National Register designation of the property in order to access Federal and State historic tax credits. A HUD 106 review will be required.

### **Public Purpose/Comprehensive Plan Conformance**

Constructed in 1888, 234-238 Bates Avenue is a rare example of a historic multi-family property in the traditionally single-family neighborhood of Dayton's Bluff. As previously noted, the property is located in the locally designated Dayton's Bluff Heritage Preservation District. Renovating the building will return a vacant, blighted property into an active, attractive use for the neighborhood.

### Housing

Strategy 2: Preserve and Promote Established Neighborhoods.

2.13 Continue to assess vacant housing conditions with City/HRA partners such as community development corporations, nonprofit organizations, private developers, district councils, and block groups and prioritize City/HRA revitalization assistance to areas with less vibrant housing markets.

Strategy 3: Ensure the Availability of Affordable Housing Across the City.

3.1 Support the preservation of publicly-assisted and private affordable housing by supporting the application of historic tax credits and other appropriate funding sources to maintain existing low-income units.

### Historic Preservation

Strategy 1: Be a Leader for Historic Preservation in Saint Paul

1.10 Give equal consideration to historic preservation factors when City action, involvement, or funding is requested or required.

1.12 Prioritize the retention of designated historic resources over demolition when evaluating planning and development projects that require or request City action, involvement or funding.

### Strategy 3: Identify, Evaluate and Designate Historic Resources

3.10 Forward properties that appear to be potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP to the SHPO for an official determination of eligibility.

### Strategy 4: Preserve and Protect Historic Resources

4.5 Acquire key threatened historic properties until a suitable owner can be found.

### **Recommendation:**

The Executive Director recommends approval of the attached resolution which approves the following actions:

1. Authorizing the sale of up to \$4,000,000 in conduit tax exempt housing revenue Notes.
2. Authorizing the Executive Director to finalize the bond documents for execution by the appropriate HRA Officers.

**Sponsored by:** Commissioner Prince

**Staff:** Report prepared by: Daniel K. Bayers, (266-6685)

### **Attachments**

- **Attachment – Map and Address of Project**
- **Attachment – Project Summary**
- **Attachment – Sources and Uses Summary**
- **Attachment – Public Purpose**
- **Attachment – District 4 Profile**