

REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Date: January 25, 2016
Item No.: 11.b

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Adopt a Resolution Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding and U.S. Bank Grant Funding for the Acquisition and Maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as Public Park and Place Space

BACKGROUND

In October of 2014 the Karen Organization of Minnesota reached out to City Staff concerning a swell of evictions/threatened evictions of Karen families in the Marion/Brittany Apartments. Staff worked with the Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) to get Karen families connected with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) to help inform tenants of their rights and to represent families with appealing legal accusations.

The group, now called the ‘Karen Interagency Group’, expanded to discuss gaps in services/challenges to Karen residents and included representation from:

City of Roseville – Administration, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Fire, HRA, Parks and Recreation and the Police Department
Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM)
International Institute (a resettlement agency that places many Karen refugees in Minnesota)
Roseville Area Schools
SMRLS
Roseville Human Rights Commission
Roseville Community Engagement Commission
Lake McCarron’s Neighborhood Association

The reoccurring challenges identified by the group included:

- I. Code Enforcement Issues/Rental Property Living Conditions
- II. Education and Awareness in Rental Rights and Responsibilities
- III. Urban Farming/Community Garden & Safe Pathway Opportunities
- IV. Recreation Opportunities for Karen Youth**

‘Attachment A’ provides greater detail on actions taken to address concerns I-III.

Out of the large interagency group came a sub-group to help tackle the issue of limited recreation opportunities for Karen and low-income youth. The possibility of a playground at 1716 Marion St. (see area map as ‘Attachment B’) had been discussed throughout the year as an opportunity for direct play space for the estimated 200 youth living in the abutting apartment buildings. Discussions with Roseville Area Schools and Parks & Recreation Department Staff indicated that the Marion St. lot might be an ideal location for youth to play. A playground that abuts the apartments would provide a safer location

for younger youth and might serve as a staging area for older youth to walk to Tamarack Park safely for recreation programming requiring field space. As with any park planning process, City Staff plans on hosting several community input sessions that would identify what type of equipment and park design the residents directly desire.

In December of 2015 City Staff received information about the Play Spaces Initiative through U.S. Bank (Attachment C). U.S. Bank will be considering proposals that demonstrate a need for up to \$50,000 toward park site improvements or playground equipment in low-income neighborhoods. Applications are due on February 18 which helped assist with the momentum for the project. City Staff reached out to members of the interagency group and Roseville Area Schools to gauge interest and received overwhelming support (see letters of support as 'Attachment D'). Roseville Area Schools agreed to the role of grant applicant and community partner on the project. A Community Project Profile and breakdown of partner roles and responsibilities can be found as 'Attachment E.'

On January 5 City Staff and Roseville Area Schools presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission with the intent on receiving advice and a recommendation to move forward with the project. The Parks & Recreation Commission recommended that the City Council support the proposal including the acquisition of the Marion Street property and the development of a playground on the site using grant funding. The Commission also recommended using the Parks and Recreation model for community involvement and engagement to include input on both the Marion Street project and proposed renewal work at Tamarack Park.

The U.S. Bank grant has a match funding requirement. Assuming City Council support for the project, Community Development Block Grant funding would be applied for in February and would be used for the acquisition of the property. The purchase agreement for 1716 Marion St. is scheduled for consideration in closed session on February 8.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Parks & Recreation Director, Lonnie Brokke, has supplied a memo (Attachment F) that estimates general maintenance costs, ongoing capital improvement costs, and the estimated cost of a community planning process that would create a master plan for the Marion St. parcel, Tamarack Park, and the Southeast area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends a Motion to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding and U.S. Bank Grant Funding for the Acquisition and Maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as Public Park and Place Space

REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION

Motion to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding and U.S. Bank Grant Funding for the Acquisition and Maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as Public Park and Place Space

Prepared by: Kari Collins, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk

Attachment A: October, 2015 Memo to City Council on Karen Engagement

Attachment B: Area Map

Attachment C: Request for Proposals (RFP) U.S. Bank Grant

Attachment D: Letters of Support

Attachment E: Community Project Profile and Partner Roles
Attachment F: Memo from Parks & Recreation Director, Lonnie Brokke
Attachment G: Resolution



Council Memo

To: City Council
From: Kari Collins, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk
Date: October 1, 2015
Re: **Karen Engagement in SE Roseville**

In October of 2014 Staff heard that Karen families in the Marion/Brittany Apartments were receiving letters from property management that were threatening eviction unless they paid for certain repairs (some that were exterior/outside of the rental unit) or reduced the number of people occupying the units. Some tenants had lease changes that were made with white-out. City Staff worked with the Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM) to help get Karen families connected with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) to start fighting some of the accusations.

SMRLS held three intake sessions that helped Karen families identify issues they were having with property management. Over 40 Karen families appeared throughout the sessions to receive help from SMRLS. Due to the interest surrounding rental rights and responsibilities the Roseville Police Department invited SMRLS, the International Institute, and code enforcement staff to speak at the New American Forum. The forum was well attended and many Karen individuals brought the evictions letters that they received and asked numerous questions.

The group of staff that originally met with the KOM expanded over the next year to include representatives from the following:

- City of Roseville – Administration, Community Development, Code Enforcement, Fire, HRA, Parks and Recreation and Police Department
- Karen Organization of Minnesota (KOM)
- International Institute (a resettlement agency that places many Karen refugees in Minnesota)
- Roseville Area Schools
- SMRLS
- Roseville Human Rights Commission
- Roseville Community Engagement Commission
- Lake McCarron's Neighborhood Association

The large group, identified as the "Karen Interagency Work Group," initially met monthly to identify where there were gaps in services for the Karen and how we could work as a team to start to fill them. There were several reoccurring themes that were identified as challenges in the area or areas of opportunity that our group could collaborate on. The group is always open to Roseville residents, organizations,

community leaders and beyond who are interested in finding solutions to some of the challenges identified.

Challenges or Areas of Opportunity that were identified included:

- I. Code Enforcement Issues/Rental Property Living Conditions**
- II. Education and Awareness in Rental Rights and Responsibilities**
- III. Recreation Opportunities for Karen Youth**
- IV. Urban Farming/Community Garden & Safe Pathway Opportunities**

I. Code Enforcement Issues/Rental Property Living Conditions

After the inception of the rental licensing program, Code Enforcement Staff had numerous conversations with G&G Management to discuss ways they could elevate the rating of their buildings and provide higher quality living conditions. Since the end of 2014, Code Enforcement has completed two rental license inspection cycles throughout the 12 building complex.

The first cycle of inspections in the Fall of 2014 found a significant number of violations (safety, health and building maintenance) inside and outside the buildings. Most of the violations were corrected by G & G Management. The second cycle of inspections, in the Spring of 2015, found fewer violations that were mainly exterior building and grounds maintenance violations. Since then, staff has presented G&G Management with a timeframe for correcting existing violations. G&G has filed an appeal to the City Council disagreeing with the timeframe that Code Enforcement staff has presented.

Code Enforcement staff has indicated that while the buildings are safer and healthier than a year ago, G&G Management intends to continue operating the complex as lower-income housing which means most likely minimal physical improvements to the buildings.

The Interagency Group suggested keeping communication with G&G Management strong and to try to encourage property management to explore creative solutions to problems. Staff recommended property management provide each new Karen resident with a copy of the pictorial brochure "Home Again," that was translated into Karen by the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The publication is intended to inform residents about the responsibilities of living in an apartment. G&G Management has not done this, and seems to be unwilling to provide copies to new and existing tenants.

Additional enforcement challenges at the buildings include litter on site. Code Enforcement staff has indicated litter at the Marion/Brittany Apartment has improved, however the litter enforcement issue is on hold pending more discussions amongst staff. The Interagency Group had discussions with the new Interim Executive Director from the Karen Organization of Minnesota about continuing to communicate expectations for litter and the group brainstormed creative ideas to help keep the site clean.

Most recently City of Roseville staff was alerted that G&G Management has started a round of evictions for about 15 Karen residents due to damage to units and unacceptable activities. Staff did not hear from any of those that have been evicted at this time.

* In addition to the work with G&G Management, Planning and Community Development staff is actively working on the Margolis site on long-standing code violations.

* In July, the Roseville Police Department hired CSO Ku Tee to increase communication with Karen residents and provide more effective outreach. The Police Department is currently building a database with Karen for law enforcement phrases, using phonetic spelling and audio links to be linked to squads/smartphones.

II. Education and Awareness in Rental Rights & Responsibilities

The Interagency Group determined that additional awareness surrounding rental rights and responsibilities was desperately needed for Karen residents. The International Institute indicated that a short housing orientation was provided to new refugees during their 90 day entry into the United States, but after the 90 days housing orientations were no longer being provided.

At the end of 2014 Administration staff reached out to the Executive Director of ECHO (Emergency, Community, Health, & Outreach) to see if they would be interested in developing a video in Karen that discussed Rental Rights and Responsibilities. ECHO had not produced a video like this and was very interested in producing it in Karen, Somali, Spanish, Hmong, and English. The HRA committed funds towards the project. HRA staff was instrumental in reaching out to other housing organizations/area HRAs to gauge interest and funding for the project. The video project had considerable interest and committed funds exceeding what were needed to produce the video. The video will be broadcast on TPT statewide and DVDs will be disseminated statewide to cultural organizations for their use.

Partners for the project are split between two agreements: Video Production and Distribution.

VIDEO PRODUCTION	
City of Roseville	\$10,000
Family Housing Fund	\$10,000
Ramsey County	\$10,000
MN Housing	\$10,000
Metropolitan Council	\$10,000
Bloomington HRA	\$5,000
Washington County HRA	\$5,000
VIDEO PRODUCTION TOTAL	\$60,000

DISTRIBUTION	
Dakota County CDA	\$5,000
Carver County CDA	\$3,000
Minneapolis Public Housing Agency	\$5,000
Scott County CDA	\$3,000
City of Eden Prairie Human Rights & Diversity Commission	\$3,000
City of Plymouth	\$2,500
DISTRIBUTION TOTAL	\$21,500
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$81,500

In addition to the video, the Minnesota Literacy Council will develop an English Language Learner (ELL) curriculum on rental rights and responsibilities that will go out to school districts statewide. Funding will also allow for a recorded cultural community conversation in each language that will be aired before/after the broadcast. ECHO/tpt is developing content now and is working on a timeline with the goal of broadcasting the video during Fair Housing Month in April 2016.

The KOM was eager to address some of the concerns regarding appropriate use of rental units and in August held four housing workshops on site at the Marion/Brittany Apartments. Housing information that included how to fill out a repair request form and an apartment condition checklist was translated and disseminated. The workshops were funded through a grant from the Roseville Community Fund. Sherry Sanders with the Lake McCarron's Neighborhood Association and the Community Engagement Commission was there to welcome Karen families and Corey Yunke with the Police Department was there to answer any questions.

Lastly, in July the Roseville Police Department hired CSO Ku Tee to increase communication with Karen residents and provide more effective outreach. The Police Department is currently building a database with Karen for law enforcement phrases, using phonetic spelling and audio links to be linked to squads/smartphones. Having CSO Ku Tee on staff has undoubtedly provided greater communication and breadth of services to Karen in the Marion/Brittany Apartments.

III. Recreation Opportunities for Karen Youth

The Interagency Group identified a desperate need for youth to have summer and after school recreation opportunities that were easily accessible and at little to no cost. It is estimated that well over 200 youth live in the Marion/Brittany Apartments with very little outdoor recreation space on site. The Interagency Group identified a need for the youth in

the rental buildings to have adequate playground space. G&G Management has indicated they are unwilling to assume the liability of having playground equipment on the property. Preliminary discussions regarding the use of abutting vacant land have been considered for this use, but the idea is still in brainstorming mode at this time.

A subgroup of the Interagency Group was created to help expand recreation opportunities for Karen youth. The Roseville Police Department has taken the lead on many of the opportunities and has been working with the Parks and Recreation Department to help find recreation space.

Below is a timeline of recreation/outreach opportunities that were offered by the Roseville Police Department:

February 2015 - The Roseville Police Department offered soccer camps in February in conjunction with Fairview Alternative High School. 25 kids attended each night and Parks and Recreation lent their vans to help transport kids after the vent. Police Officers stopped by to help and offer safety messages during breaks.

July 2015 - Karen, Nepali and Somali youth ages 3 – 20 participated in several soccer camps that were offered. The Police Department had 28 participants over the course of the three camps. Five students that participated were encouraged and transportation was provided to try out on North Suburban Soccer Association. Three participants were placed on competitive club soccer teams.

August 2015 - Create-a-memory at Target Field, 12 kids and a few parents from SE Roseville were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of Target Field including running the bases and an all you can eat buffet. Kids from the soccer camp were the primary attendees from Roseville. This was a partnership with NYFS and came from the recently created SE Roseville recreation subgroup.

August 2015 - PD and Fire collaborated for another lemonade stand at the Brittany/Marion Apartments. Approximately 125 popsicles were distributed within an hour to kids living in the buildings.

September 2015 – NSSA donated 20 tickets to the Minnesota United Futbol Club. CSO Ku Tee and Community Relations Coordinator Corey Yunke coordinated transportation and chaperoned 18 kids and their families, many from the Soccer camp.

IV. Urban Farming/Community Gardens and Safe Pathways Opportunities

The Interagency Group identified that adult and elderly Karen have lived most of their life in an agrarian state. Community gardens and opportunities for urban farming have been growing in popularity across many cultures, and the group discussed possible locations for such use. A sub-group was formed out of the interagency group to discuss possible locations for a community garden. Representatives from the City, Ramsey

County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, the Lake McCarron's Neighborhood Association, KOM, ISD623 ELL, and other interested parties discussed options for community gardens in Southeast Roseville. A volunteer citizen of the area identified St. Paul Water Works property that is located in Maplewood and that could accommodate St. Paul, Maplewood and Roseville Karen residents. Permission has been given from the St. Paul Water Works to possibly locate a garden on the site but City zoning would need to be amended. Discussions with the County about possible sites will continue in October.

The Interagency Group also identified safety issues with Karen residents walking along Larpenteur Ave. After discussions with Ramsey County, Ramsey County Public Works and Community Development Block Grant funds were committed to connect a pathway along Larpenteur Avenue with existing trail through Ramsey County park space. The project is estimated at \$150,000 and there is no cost for the connection to the City at this time. The pathway connection will help reduce foot traffic on Larpenteur and will improve access to Reservoir Woods Park. A map showing the connection is included on the next page of this update.



1716 Marion St Community Project Profile

U.S. Bank Places to Play Program

A Community Recreation and Play Space Initiative

2015 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Overview

The U.S. Bank Places to Play Program is a collaboration between U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings that provides community-based non-profit organizations and schools with grants to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local play spaces in low- to moderate-income communities in Minnesota. Recreation and play spaces serve as tremendous community assets because they offer opportunities for recreation and relaxation that improve the local quality of life, especially for young people. U.S. Bank Places to Play is intended not only to respond to the immediate shortage of safe recreation and play spaces, but also to build an infrastructure through resident involvement to sustain these recreational spaces for community use.

U.S. Bank believes in putting people first - our employees, our customers and our communities. U.S. Bank Places to Play is a great example of that commitment. U.S. Bank and the Minnesota Vikings are collaborating to invest \$1 million over three years to give youth, families and communities across the State of Minnesota access to safe places to play and engage in recreational activity. This grant-making initiative will focus on parks, playgrounds, indoor/outdoor athletic facilities and repairs to existing trails.

In order to be eligible for a grant under the Program, projects must be sponsored by community-based non-profit organizations registered as exempt from Federal Income Tax under Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501(c)(3) or by schools in low- to moderate-income communities in Minnesota.

Strong preference will be given to those proposals that (1) seek to upgrade existing facilities that are in poor condition or otherwise underutilized; (2) demonstrate active use of the spaces; (3) **attract matching funding that exceeds the minimum required match of 1:1**; (4) involve local partnerships with non-profit community partners (e.g., Parks and Recreation departments, YMCA branches, etc.) to promote youth safety and community programming; and (5) provide for continuing maintenance and safety.

Proposals are due February 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. CST

Please read the complete RFP before requesting a proposal submission link.

Availability of Funding

Matching grants of \$25,000 to \$50,000 will be available to provide general recreation space support. Community-based non-profit organizations and schools in low- to moderate-income communities may submit requests for capital projects associated with actual recreation and play spaces. This includes the installation or refurbishment of parks, playgrounds, indoor/outdoor recreation facilities and repairs to existing trails.

Organizational Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the U.S. Bank Places to Play Program, organizations applying for grant funds must meet **all** of the criteria listed below:

- Be a community-based non-profit organization or school serving a neighborhood consisting primarily of low- to moderate-income families and individuals. Please note:

- o Schools must demonstrate the ability of the community to also utilize the recreation space;
 - o Universities and college campuses are not eligible to apply for funding from the U.S. Bank Places to Play Program and will not be considered.
- Have at least one full-time staff person (all-volunteer organizations will not be considered);
- Be in existence for at least three years;
- Have a proven track record in real estate development and/or parks programming;
- Have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status/school status

Funding Restrictions

The U.S. Bank Places to Play Program will not provide funding for:

- organizations that are not tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), except public schools.
- fraternal organizations, merchant associations, chamber memberships or programs, or 501(c)(4) or (6) organizations.
- section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations.
- fundraising events or sponsorships.
- "pass through" organizations or private foundations.
- organizations outside the State of Minnesota.
- programs operated by religious organizations for religious purposes.
- political organizations or organizations designed primarily to lobby.
- individuals.
- travel and related expenses.
- endowment campaigns.
- deficit reduction.
- organizations receiving primary funding from United Way.
- organizations whose practices are not in keeping with the company's equal opportunity policy.

Selection Criteria

Organizations and their projects will be selected for funding based upon the following criteria:

1. **Feasibility of the proposed project.** The project budget must be based upon realistic costs, preferably written contractor's estimates.
2. **Project readiness.** Sources of funding for the entire budget should be identified. Plans for renovation should take into account the schedule of recreation activities over the course of the year. A project timeline should be specified in the proposal. Projects should have plans for completion by November 1, 2017.
3. **Impact upon neighborhood and support from the community.** Only proposals that locate projects in low- to moderate-income communities in the State of Minnesota will be considered. The proposal should clearly state how the improvements would benefit the community. It also must clearly detail how many youth and adults will make use of the recreation space. Moreover, the proposal must include a projected increase in the number of people that will use the facility as a result of the U.S. Bank Places to Play improvements. Support letters from other

neighborhood and partner organizations and joint use agreements (where applicable) must be included as well as contact information for the youth organizations and school programs scheduled to use the facilities (if applicable).

4. **Match funding.** The U.S. Bank Places to Play Program requires a minimum local match of one dollar for every dollar granted (1:1). For example, if the proposal requests \$25,000 from the Program, it must demonstrate sources and commitments for at least \$25,000 in local funds. ***Match funding at a higher ratio will strengthen the proposal.***
5. **Security of future maintenance and safety.** Proposals must have written commitments of maintenance funding for a minimum of three years and a detailed three-year maintenance plan in order to demonstrate that the applicant will maintain the space despite projected wear and tear and potential overuse of the facility. As a reminder, U.S. Bank Places to Play funds may not be used for maintenance, as all grant funds must be used for capital expenditures.
6. **Capacity of organization and its partners to carry out project.** The applicant organization must demonstrate, through its current management team and previous experience, the ability to manage a project of this size and nature.

Other Terms & Definitions:

1. Capital improvements refer to the physical development of the recreation site and its surrounding amenities.
2. Public agencies (other than public schools) may not apply for grants from the U.S. Bank Places to Play Program. However, community-based non-profit organizations with 501(c)(3) designation, schools meeting all other organizational criteria, and private schools with 501(c)(3) designation may apply to make improvements on recreation spaces owned and managed by public sector entities (e.g. City, Parks and Recreation Departments, etc.). In those cases, the applicant must show evidence that (1) the public entity supports the proposal; (2) the public entity authorizes the applicant to carry out the proposed capital improvements (this authorization must take into account relevant labor/union regulations and liability issues); (3) the public entity demonstrates its financial commitment to maintenance; and (4) the facility is open to and used by the community for organized and other events through joint use agreements.

Application Procedures

Please email placestoplay@usbank.com to request a U.S. Bank Places to Play proposal submission link. Include your name, your email address and your organization's name.

Proposals must be submitted by February 18, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. CST. No exceptions.
Decisions will be communicated by May 1, 2016.

Please email placestoplay@usbank.com with questions.



Roseville Area Schools

Quality Teaching & Learning for All...Equity in All We Do

December 30, 2015

To: City of Roseville

From: Kristina Robertson, EL Supervisor, Roseville Public Schools

Re: Recommendation for playground space at 1716 Marion St.

I am writing in support of the proposed park space allocation at 1716 Marion St. Utilizing this space to develop a playground and park area will greatly enhance the community experience and beauty of the area, while also supporting children to be active.

There is a unique opportunity to secure funds through the *Places to Play* program with U.S. Bank in order to build a playground in that space and provide a safe, nurturing creative play space for children, many of whom are Karen refugees. In my 25 years as an ESL teacher and leader I have seen many new immigrant students become depressed and isolated when they arrive because their parents are overwhelmed with adjustment to the U.S. and familiar play areas no longer exist. Building a park near the apartments where many Karen refugees live would be a lifeline to students and their parents by ensuring they have a safe place to play and connect.

When arriving in a new country it is very important to build a strong network to support your success as you secure housing, learn a new language, and get a job. Many of our refugee families have been separated through the process of transition and they form new friendships and supports – caring for each other and watching each other's children. Many refugee children experience the stress of moving to a new country differently than their parents, and play can be a very important part of their healthy adjustment. Outdoor play, in particular, offers an opportunity to make new friends, release some energy, be creative and get out of small apartments that can feel very limited in comparison to the warm, sunny locations they lived in previously.

By allocating this park space you will ensure that the families in the apartment buildings have a safe, clean space they can easily walk to that will give parents a chance to connect while their children play. Although there is a park in the area, it is safer and more supportive of the apartment residents to transform an empty space into a small park that will enhance community in their area and provide a safe and fun play space.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and all you do for Roseville residents.



December 31, 2015

City of Roseville

Dear Commission:

I am writing in support of the proposed playground at 1716 Marion Street in Roseville. The International Institute of Minnesota provides comprehensive services to refugees, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied minors and other immigrants through integrated programs of refugee resettlement, education and employment training, and immigration services. Most of our clients are refugees from Somalia and Karen refugees from Burma.

One of the responsibilities of our refugee resettlement program is to find and secure rental housing for newly-arrived refugee clients. Many of our clients want to live near their family members and friends in Roseville, Minnesota. Several of our clients live within walking distance of the proposed Marion Street playground.

The opportunity provided by U.S. Bank's "Places to Play Program" to create a recreation area on the Marion Street lot is a wonderful chance for Roseville to welcome refugee children into the community. Many of our clients come from cultures that value communal living space and community interaction. Having a space close to their apartments to gather will benefit the entire family. Our clients will value the opportunity to be outside with their children, and the children will have a safe place to use excess energy before returning to their apartments.

Thank you for considering this project. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Micaela Schuneman

Director of Refugee Services

651-641-0191, ext. 338

January 5, 2015

To: City of Roseville

Re: Playground recommendation

Lake McCarrons Neighborhood Association joins the Roseville Police Department and Roseville Area School Supervisor Kristina Robertson in support of building a children's playground located at 1716 Marion St. There are a large number of residents in this area, among which are approximately 300+ immigrant/refugee and economically disadvantaged children.

This neighborhood in our community has been waiting years for promised improvements to Tamarack Park at 1745 Farrington St. by Roseville Parks & Recreation Department. Providing a playground on Marion St. and soccer fields in Tamarack Park would greatly improve the quality of life and benefit an untold amount of families as well as act as a valuable crime deterrent in southeast Roseville.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,
Lake McCarrons Neighborhood Association
Sherry Sanders, Chair
Diane Hilden, Founder and Board Member

Community Project Profile - 1716 Marion St., Roseville, MN 55111-6716

Partners: Roseville Police Foundation, Roseville Area Schools, Karen Organization of Minnesota, International Institute of Minnesota, and Roseville Parks & Recreation Commission, referred to as “*the Partners*”

Objective: To provide access to appropriate play space and playground equipment for the 200+ youth that reside in the apartment buildings surrounding 1716 Marion St., Roseville, MN 55113.

Background: The City of Roseville prides on the reputation of stellar recreation programming and park amenities for Roseville residents. The Partners listed above have determined that a large amount of Roseville youth, primarily Karen refugees, do not have the access to playground equipment and play space in the dense rental areas of southeast Roseville. Through various interagency groups, the Partners have identified an opportunity at 1716 Marion St. Roseville, MN 55113 for such use.

The vacant lot at 1716 Marion St. abuts the apartment buildings and would provide direct play space for the tenants in the Brittany/Marion apartments. A map of the lot and surrounding area is included for your review.

Recently the City of Roseville became aware of an opportunity through US Bank’s ‘Places to Play Program’ for grant dollars for recreation use. The grant dollars would be used to purchase the playground equipment. A copy of the US Bank Request for Proposal (RFP) is attached.

Approvals Necessary for the Completion of the Project Include:

- 1) On January 5 City Staff presented to the Parks & Recreation seeking advice and a possible recommendation on the proposal. The Parks & Recreation Commission made motion to support the proposal including the acquisition of the Marion Street property and the development of a playground on the site using grant funding. The Commission also recommended using the Parks and Recreation model for community involvement and engagement to include input on both the Marion Street project and proposed renewal work at Tamarack Park.

- 2) Ramsey County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds will be applied for in February, 2016, and will be used to purchase the property at 1716 Marion St. Funds awarded by the County should satisfy the Match Funding requirement identified in the U.S. Bank RFP.
- 3) If the City Council approves moving forward with the U.S. Bank grant, a resolution committing to the maintenance of the site as a park will be needed to accompany the grant materials. The grant also requests that the applicant prove site control. A purchase agreement with any contingencies will be considered in closed session on February 8.

Partner Roles

City of Roseville:

- Responsible for Purchase and Maintenance of the Property including applying for Community Development Block Grant Dollars for the acquisition of the property in February (Notice of Funding Awarded will be Announced in May)
- Responsible for Additional Cost (e.g. site improvements) outside of what can be provided via grant dollars
- Retains Site Control and Coordinates all Recreation Programming for Park

Roseville Area Schools (RAS):

- Applicant for U.S. Bank Grant (U.S. Bank Grant Dollars are being sought to help offset cost of playground equipment). Maximum Funding that can be awarded is \$50,000.
- Would like to use the park for School District parent/student information sessions, book readings, etc., and will work together with Roseville Parks & Recreation Department to coordinate programming efforts throughout the school year.

*The role of the school district is one of support, and teammate on the U.S. Bank grant. RAS will be applying for the U.S. Bank grant on behalf of the partners listed on the community project profile. The U.S. Bank grant will be put towards the cost of playground equipment. RAS (and the Parks & Recreation Commission) stressed their desire for the City to

make a concerted effort to gather community input in the design and development of the property including engaging the Brittany/Marion residents.

Site control and programming will be managed by City staff. City Staff welcomes RAS for additional programming throughout the school year. RAS has mentioned exploring student/parent information sessions, food drop-offs, etc.

We hope to use this opportunity to strengthen relationships with the school district and very much believe that this park will be a greater success with wide community support.

Roseville Police Foundation:

- Roseville Police Foundation has offered support on the project. Funds from the Foundation could be sought if additional dollars are needed for park benches/signage, etc.

*The Karen Organization of Minnesota, International Institute, and Parks & Recreation Commission are Partners in Support.

MEMORANDUM

Roseville Parks and Recreation Department

To: Pat Trudgeon, City Manager
Kari Collins, Assistant to the City Manager
From: Lonnie Brokke, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: January 14, 2016
Re: 1716 Marion St. Community Park Project Proposal

On January 5, 2016 the Parks and Recreation Commission heard a presentation on a concept park proposal at 1716 Marion Street and made the following recommendation:

Commissioner Doneen moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend the City Council support the proposal that includes the acquisition of the Marion Street property and the development of a playground on the site using grant funding. The Commission also recommends using the Parks and Recreation model for community involvement and engagement to include input on both the Marion Street project and proposed renewal work at Tamarack Park. Second by Commissioner Gelbach. Passed Unanimously.

A full inspection of the property has not occurred.

If acquired, the following are estimated costs:

- Ongoing general maintenance costs are estimated to be \$1550 annually. This includes mowing, trimming, inspections, general repair and replacements.
- Ongoing capital improvement costs are estimated to be \$5,200 annually. This includes playground and signage replacement and general site amenities.
- A comprehensive community planning process to create a master plan for each park and the area may cost up to \$15,000.
- Programming costs are yet to be determined depending on the extent.

1 **EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING**
2 **OF THE**
3 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE**

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9 Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roseville,
10 County of Ramsey, Minnesota was duly held on the ____ day of _____, at 6:00 p.m.

11
12 The following members were present:

13 and the following were absent:

14 Member introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

15
16 **Resolution No.**

17
18
19 **Resolution Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Community Development Block**
20 **Grant Funding and U.S. Bank Grant Funding for the Acquisition and**
21 **Maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as Public Park and Place Space**
22

23
24 WHEREAS, the City Council has made Southeast Roseville a priority in the City Council Priority
25 Plan adopted for 2016; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the City of Roseville ‘Karen Interagency Group’ identified limited recreation
28 opportunities and play space for the Karen and immigrant communities living in
29 Southeast Roseville; and

30
31 WHEREAS, the City of Roseville estimates that approximately 200 youth live in the apartment
32 buildings that surround 1716 Marion St.; and

33
34 WHEREAS, 1716 Marion St. is a vacant parcel of land that is privately owned and currently for
35 sale; and

36
37 WHEREAS, the City of Roseville has partnered with Roseville Area Schools, Karen Organization
38 of Minnesota, International Institute of Minnesota, Roseville Police Foundation, and the
39 City of Roseville Parks & Recreation Commission to seek grant funding to acquire
40 1716 Marion St. for park and playground space; and

41
42 WHEREAS, the City of Roseville has identified Ramsey County Community Development Block
43 Grant dollars as potential funding to acquire 1716 Marion St.;

44
45 WHEREAS, the community partners have identified the U.S. Bank ‘Places to Play’ initiative as a
46 potential source of grant funding to help offset the cost of playground equipment; and

47
48 WHEREAS, the U.S. Bank grant requires that the public entity demonstrate a financial commitment
49 to the maintenance of the site; and

50
51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Roseville will make the park space

52 available for programming opportunities by all community partners, and members of
53 the public; and
54

55 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Roseville is financially committed to the
56 maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as a park and will incorporate it into the Parks and
57 Recreation Master Plan; and
58

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Roseville City Council hereby authorizes city
60 staff to apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding for the purchase of
61 1716 Marion St.; and
62

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that City Staff in partnership with Roseville Area Schools,
64 Karen Organization of Minnesota, International Institute, Roseville Police Foundation,
65 and other community partners of support are authorized to apply for a \$50,000 grant
66 from U.S. Bank to help offset playground cost;
67

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,
69

70 The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member ____, and
71 upon a vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: ____ and ____,
72

73 and the following voted against the same:
74

75 WHEREUPON said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Resolution – Authorizing City Staff to Apply for Community Development Block Grant Funding and U.S. Bank Grant Funding for the Acquisition and Maintenance of 1716 Marion St. as Public Park and Place Space

[illegible]

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified City Manager of the City of Roseville, County of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that I have carefully compared the attached and foregoing extract of minutes of a regular meeting of said City Council held on the ____ day of January, 2016 with the original thereof on file in my office.

WITNESS MY HAND officially as such Manager this 25th day of January, 2016.

Patrick Trudgeon, City Manager

(Seal

