

Monday, September 16, 2024
6:00 PM

REGULAR EDA MEETING – AGENDA #11

President Hollies Winston, Vice President Nichole Klonowski, Treasurer Christian Eriksen,
Commissioners Boyd Morson, Xp Lee, Maria Tran, and Tony McGarvey
Assistant Executive Director Jay Stroebel and Secretary Seng Moua.

If you need these materials in an alternative format or reasonable accommodations for an EDA meeting, please provide a 72-hours' notice to Seng Moua by calling 763-493-8059 or emailing Seng.Moua@brooklynpark.org.

Si usted necesita esta información en español, llame al 763-424-8000 y solicite un intérprete.

Yog xav tau kev pab, hu 763-493-8059.

Our Vision: Brooklyn Park, a thriving community inspiring pride where opportunities exist for all.

Our Brooklyn Park 2025 Goals:

• A united and welcoming community, strengthened by our diversity • Beautiful spaces and quality infrastructure make Brooklyn Park a unique destination • A balanced economic environment that empowers businesses and people to thrive • People of all ages have what they need to feel healthy and safe • Partnerships that increase racial and economic equity empower residents and neighborhoods to prosper • Effective and engaging government recognized as a leader

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

3. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

Provides an opportunity for the public to address the EDA on items which are not on the agenda. Public Comment will be limited to 15 minutes (*if no one is in attendance for Public Comment, the regular meeting may begin*), and it may not be used to make personal attacks, to air personality grievances, to make political endorsements or for political campaign purposes. Commissioners will not enter into a dialogue with members of the public. Questions from the EDA will be for clarification only. Public Comment will not be used as a time for problem-solving or reacting to the comments made but, rather, for hearing from members of the public for informational purposes only.

3A. RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT

3B. PUBLIC COMMENT

3C. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

3D. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

III. STATUTORY BUSINESS AND/OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4. CONSENT

4.1 Consider Approving the August 19, 2024, EDA Regular Meeting Minutes

A. AUGUST 19, 2024, DRAFT EDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The following items relate to the EDA's long-range policy-making responsibilities and are handled individually for appropriate debate and deliberation. (Those persons wishing to speak to any of the items listed in this section should fill out a speaker's form and give it to the Secretary. Staff will present each item, following in which audience input is invited. Discussion will then be closed to the public and directed to the EDA table for action.)

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1** Consider Approving Special Benefit Tax Levies for the Purpose of Defraying the Costs Incurred by the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority for the Year 2025
 - A.** RESOLUTION

IV. DISCUSSION – These items will be discussion items, but the EDA may act upon them during the meeting.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1** EDA Status Updates
- 7.2** Verbal Commissioner Reports and Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT

Since we do not have time to discuss every point presented, it may seem that decisions are preconceived. However, background information is provided for the EDA on each agenda item in advance from city staff; and decisions are based on this information and past experiences. Items requiring excessive time may be continued to another meeting.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for EDA Action

Agenda Item:	4.1	Meeting Date:	September 16, 2024
Agenda Section:	Consent	Prepared By:	Seng Moua, EDA Secretary
Resolution:	N/A	Presented By:	Jay Stroebel, Assistant Executive Director
Attachments:	1		
Item:	Consider Approving the August 19, 2024, EDA Regular Meeting Minutes		

Executive Director's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 19, 2024, EDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Overview: N/A

Primary Issues/Alternatives to Consider: N/A

Budgetary/Fiscal Issues: N/A

Attachments:

4.1A AUGUST 19, 2024, DRAFT EDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



Monday, August 19, 2024

Immediately Following the Special City Council Meeting at 6:00 PM

EDA REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – #10

President Hollies Winston, Vice President Nichole Klonowski, Treasurer Christian Eriksen,
Commissioners Boyd Morson, Xp Lee, Tony McGarvey, and Maria Tran,
Assistant Executive Director Jay Stroebel and Secretary Seng Moua.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL at 6:21 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners' Lee, McGarvey, Morson, Eriksen, Klonowski, and Winston

ABSENT: Tran

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: ERIKSEN **SECOND:** LEE

AYES: MORSON, LEE, KLONOWSKI, ERIKSEN, MCGARVEY, AND WINSTON

NAYS: NONE

II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

3. PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE

3A. RESPONSE TO PRIOR PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

3B. PUBLIC COMMENT

RICH XIONG MADE A PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT 6.1 FORMER PARK & RIDE STIES.

COLLETTE GUYOTT-HEMPEL MADE A PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING ORDINANCE CHANGES.

3C. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS - NONE

3D. PUBLIC ANNOUCEMENTS - NONE

III. STATUTORY BUSINESS AND/OR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4. CONSENT

4.1 Consider Approving the July 15, 2024, EDA Regular Meeting Minutes

A. JULY 15, 2024, DRAFT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

4.2 Consider Amending the 2024 EDA Budget to Modify Revenue and Expenses for Workforce Development

A. RESOLUTION

B. WFD BUDGET AMENDMENT

4.3 Consider Authorizing the Purchase of Property 4120 85th Ave North from the EDA TIF 3 Fund

A. RESOLUTION

B. LOCATION MAP

4.4 Consider Approving a First Amendment to Purchase and Development Contract with Christina's day Care

A. RESOLUTION

B. LOCATION MAP

C. AMENDMENT

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA TABLING 4.5 TO DISCUSS.

MOTION: ERIKSEN **SECOND:** LEE

AYES: ERIKSEN, KLONOWSKI, LEE, MCGARVEY, MORSON, AND WINSTON

NAYS: NONE

- 4.5** Consider Authorizing the Executive Director to Extend the Current Contracts with Ehlers and Associates for Financial Advisory and with Kennedy & Graven for Legal Services
- A.** RESOLUTION
 - B.** KENNEDY AND GRAVEN CONTRACT AND FEES
 - C.** EHLERS CONTRACT
 - D.** EHLERS 2024 FEE SCHEDULE

MOTION: KLONOWSKI **SECOND:** ERIKSEN
AYES: ERIKSEN, KLONOWSKI, LEE, MCGARVEY, AND WINSTON
NAYS: MORSON

The following items relate to the EDA's long-range policy-making responsibilities and are handled individually for appropriate debate and deliberation. (Those persons wishing to speak to any of the items listed in this section should fill out a speaker's form and give it to the Secretary. Staff will present each item, following in which audience input is invited. Discussion will then be closed to the public and directed to the EDA table for action.)

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

6. GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1** Consider Approving and Authorizing the Executive Director to Issue the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Oxbow and Former Park & Rides Sites
- A.** RESOLUTION
 - B.** LOCATION MAP – OXBOW SITES
 - C.** LOCATION MAP – FORMER PARK & RIDE
 - D.** COMMUNITY COMMENTS ON DRAFT RFQ
 - E.** DRAFT RFQ

The purpose of this item is to consider approving the draft Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the former Park & Ride located at 4201 95th Avenue N and the Oxbow Commons sites, a name which refers to a collection of four EDA-owned sites at the intersection of Oak Grove Parkway and Regent Ave. Given the proximity, similarity, and interest in developing both these locations, staff proposed one RFQ for all sites. The EDA discussed the draft RFQ at a work session on May 20 and are now considering the final draft for approval.

MOTION: LEE **SECOND:** MCGARVEY
AYES: ERIKSEN, KLONOWSKI, LEE, MCGARVEY, MORSON, AND WINSTON
NAYS: NONE

IV. DISCUSSION – These items will be discussion items, but the EDA may act upon them during the meeting.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 7.1** EDA Status Updates – Staff presented verbal updates based on the information provided in the staff report and answered questions.
- 7.2** Verbal Commissioner Reports and Announcements

V. ADJOURNMENT at 7:21 P.M.

The Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority's Agenda Packet is posted on the City's website.

To access the agenda packet, go to www.brooklynpark.org

The Next Scheduled EDA Meeting is Monday, September 16, 2024.

City of Brooklyn Park Request for EDA Action

Agenda Item:	6.1	Meeting Date:	September 16, 2024
Agenda Section:	General Action Items	Prepared By:	Tim Gladhill, EDA Executive Director; and Jay Stroebel, City Manager
Resolution:	X	Presented By:	Tim Gladhill, EDA Executive Director; and Jay Stroebel, City Manager
Attachments:	1		
Item:	Consider Approving Special Benefit Tax Levies for the Purpose of Defraying the Costs Incurred by the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority for the Year 2025		

Executive Director's Proposed Action:

MOTION _____, SECOND _____, TO WAIVE THE READING AND ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-_____ APPROVING SPECIAL BENEFIT TAX LEVIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFRAYING THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BROOKLYN PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2025.

Overview:

The City's budgeting schedule requires the Economic Development Authority (EDA) and Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to set levies by the September meeting.

- The EDA levy is a special benefit tax as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, § 469.107, Subd. 1, which cannot exceed 0.01813 percent of the taxable estimated market value of the City. By Resolution #2005-253, dated September 12, 2005, the City Council authorized the EDA to levy and collect no more than this amount pending final approval by the City Council.
- The HRA Levy is a special benefit tax as authorized by Minnesota Statutes, § 469.033, subd. 6, which cannot exceed 0.0185 percent of the taxable estimated market value of the City. By Resolution #1997-336, dated December 18, 1997, the City Council authorized the EDA to levy and collect no more than this amount pending final approval of the City Council.

Upon conferring with the City Manager and Finance Director, staff recommends the EDA set the EDA and HRA preliminary levy at that amount shown below. A final levy amount will be brought back for consideration after full review and analysis of strategic priorities with the EDA. EDA Budget Highlights for 2025 include, but are not limited to the following:

- Phase Out of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding
- Continued Ramp Up of Small Business Center
- Northwest Area and BioTech Innovation District Planning

Table 1: EDA and HRA Levy Amounts

	Adopted	Adopted	Adopted	Proposed Preliminary	Maximum	Difference Between Proposed and Maximum
LEVY	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2025
EDA	\$1,253,949	\$1,326,649	\$1,426,649	\$1,626,649	\$2,010,126	\$383,477
HRA	\$859,752	\$1,000,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,051,149	\$851,149
Total	\$2,113,701	\$2,326,649	\$2,526,649	\$2,826,649	\$4,061,275	\$1,234,626

To provide some context regarding the City's tax base, the tables below provide data showing tax base growth in Brooklyn Park (Table 2) and the allowable EDA and HRA levys by City in Hennepin County (Table 3).

Table 2: Change in Taxable Market Value in Brooklyn Park from 2018 to 2024

Tax Year Payable	Taxable Market Value	Percent Change from Prior Year	Tax Year Payable	Taxable Market Value	Percent Change from Prior Year
2024	10,866,500,186	5.86%	2024	46.52%	9.77%
2023	10,264,703,385	20.16%	2023	42.38%	-10.82%
2022	8,542,442,375	5.28%	2022	47.52%	2.43%
2021	8,113,954,348	6.89%	2021	46.40%	-5.05%
2020	7,590,654,466	9.05%	2020	48.86%	-5.80%
2019	6,960,847,650	6.39%	2019	51.87%	1.39%
2018	6,542,990,392		2018	51.16%	

Source: <https://www.hennepin.us/residents/property/taxing-district-info>

Table 3: 2025 Levy Limits for HRAs and EDAs in Hennepin County

2025 Levy Limitations

Tax District	2023 Pay 2024 EMV Personal Property Market Value	2023 Pay 2024 EMV Real Estate Market Value	2023 Pay 2024 EMV Cross County MV (If Applicable)	Total	% of Market Value Limitation	2025 Dollar Amount Limitation
Hennepin County HRA	1,513,080,300	246,326,901,600		247,839,981,900	0.01850%	45,850,397
Bloomington HRA	37,559,200	17,647,102,200		17,684,661,400	0.01850%	3,271,662
Bloomington Port Authority	37,559,200	17,647,102,200		17,684,661,400	0.01813%	3,206,229
Brooklyn Center EDA	13,884,700	3,265,009,200		3,278,893,900	0.01813%	594,463
Brooklyn Center HRA	13,884,700	3,265,009,200		3,278,893,900	0.01850%	606,595
Brooklyn Park HRA	30,214,000	11,057,079,800		11,087,293,800	0.01850%	2,051,149
Brooklyn Park EDA	30,214,000	11,057,079,800		11,087,293,800	0.01813%	2,010,126
Champlin EDA (under HRA MS 469.033 auth)	11,354,000	3,658,803,800		3,670,157,800	0.01850%	678,979
Crystal EDA (under HRA MS 469.033 auth)	14,629,300	2,838,119,300		2,852,748,600	0.01850%	527,758
Dayton EDA (under HRA MS 469.033 auth)	30,299,800	2,038,390,200	10,103,700	2,078,793,700	0.01850%	384,577
Eden Prairie HRA	72,253,500	14,311,254,400		14,383,507,900	0.01850%	2,660,949
Edina HRA	40,090,200	16,606,950,300		16,647,040,500	0.01850%	3,079,702
Golden Valley HRA	19,029,300	5,365,523,900		5,384,553,200	0.01850%	996,142
Hopkins HRA	7,962,200	2,839,573,100		2,847,535,300	0.01850%	526,794
Maple Grove HRA	53,563,300	14,243,248,400		14,296,811,700	0.01850%	2,644,910
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority	245,218,200	67,388,397,700		67,633,615,900	0.01850%	12,512,219
Minnnetonka HRA	31,296,500	13,350,336,000		13,381,632,500	0.01850%	2,475,602
Mound HRA	2,612,800	2,242,535,200		2,245,148,000	0.01850%	415,352
New Hope EDA	12,718,000	2,848,566,700		2,861,284,700	0.01813%	518,751
New Hope HRA	12,718,000	2,848,566,700		2,861,284,700	0.01850%	529,338
Plymouth HRA	61,811,700	17,763,821,600		17,825,633,300	0.01850%	3,297,742
Richfield HRA	13,617,600	5,048,219,600		5,061,837,200	0.01850%	936,440
Richfield EDA	13,617,600	5,048,219,600		5,061,837,200	0.01813%	917,711
Robbinsdale HRA	6,290,800	1,803,614,500		1,809,905,300	0.01850%	334,832
St. Anthony HRA	2,765,000	931,989,400	543,483,600	1,478,238,000	0.01850%	273,474
St. Louis Park HRA	18,445,400	9,730,434,300		9,748,879,700	0.01850%	1,803,543
St. Louis Park EDA	18,445,400	9,730,434,300		9,748,879,700	0.01813%	1,767,472
Hennepin County Parks	1,267,862,100	178,938,503,900		180,206,366,000	0.03224%	58,098,532
Hennepin County Park Bonds	1,267,862,100	178,938,503,900		180,206,366,000	0.00725%	13,064,962
Hennepin Co. R/R Authority	1,513,080,300	246,326,901,600		247,839,981,900	0.04835%	119,830,631
Park Museum	1,513,080,300	246,326,901,600		247,839,981,900	0.00846%	20,967,262

Recommendation:

The Executive Director of the EDA recommends approval.

Attachments:

6.1A RESOLUTION

THE BROOKLYN PARK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN PARK

RESOLUTION #2024-_____

RESOLUTION APPROVING SPECIAL BENEFIT TAX LEVIES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF DEFRAYING THE COSTS INCURRED BY THE BROOKLYN PARK ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (the "EDA") was created by the City Council of the City of Brooklyn Park (the "City Council") by its adoption of an "Enabling Resolution" No. 1988-273, dated October 24, 1988 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.090 to 469.1081 (the "EDA Act"); and

WHEREAS, the Enabling Resolution was amended by Resolution No. 1995-72 dated March 20, 1995, whereby the EDA was granted all of the powers, rights, duties, and obligations set forth in Minnesota Statutes Sections 469.001 to 469.047 (the "HRA Act"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 469.033, Subd. 6 of the HRA Act, with the consent of the City, the EDA is authorized to levy a special benefit tax within its area of operation, not to exceed 0.0185 percent of the City's taxable estimated market value, for the purpose of defraying its operational costs (the "HRA Levy"); and

WHEREAS, the HRA Act was amended in 1994 to permit the City to authorize the EDA to levy and collect the HRA Levy without subsequent, serial approvals by the City; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 1997-336, dated December 18, 1997, the City Council resolved that the EDA "is authorized to levy and collect taxes in accordance with the amended HRA Act, without subsequent approval of the City, for so long as City Council members constitute the entire Board of Commissioners of the EDA"; and

WHEREAS, City Council members currently constitute the entire Board of Commissioners of the EDA (the "Board"); consequently, a separate annual approval by the City Council of the 2024 HRA Levy is not required; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 469.107, Subd. 1 of the EDA Act, the EDA may request that the City levy a special benefit tax within its area of operation, not to exceed 0.01813 percent of the City's taxable estimated market value, for the purpose of defraying operational costs of the EDA (the "EDA Levy"); and

WHEREAS, the staff has recommended Board approval of the proposed amount of the allowable HRA Levy, and an EDA Levy in an amount sufficient, together with the HRA Levy, for the forecasted expenditures of the EDA, as set forth below, and has represented that such levies are based upon the preliminary 2024 EDA budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. That an HRA Levy for the year 2025 in the amount of \$1,200,000 is hereby approved pursuant to Section 469.033, Subd. 6 of the HRA Act, as amended, for the purpose of defraying the EDA's operational costs.

2. That the Executive Director of the EDA is hereby authorized and directed to forward this action to the City Council and to take such other actions as are necessary to effectuate the HRA Levy approved herein in accordance with Section 469.033, Subd. 6 of the HRA Act.
3. That the City is requested to make an EDA Levy for the year 2025 in the amount of \$1,626,649 which does not exceed 0.01813 percent of taxable estimated market value in the City, pursuant to Section 469.107, Subd. 1 of the EDA Act for the purpose of defraying the EDA's operational costs.
4. That the Executive Director of the EDA is hereby authorized and directed to forward this request to the City Council and to take such other actions as are necessary to obtain City Council approval and imposition of the EDA Levy.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 12, 2024

TO: EDA Commissioners

FROM: Tim Gladhill, EDA Executive Director
Michelle Basham, Economic Development and Housing Director

SUBJECT: EDA Status Update

Overview

This memo provides an update to the Brooklyn Park Economic Development Authority (EDA) and serves to keep interested community members informed.

GENERAL UPDATES:

- The MNW/Gus Macker Tournament was a big success, thank you to everyone who volunteered, participated and supported the event! Highlights:
 - 160 teams/35 vendors
 - More than 2,4000 people attended the two-day event
- EDH Staffing Updates:
 - Sarah Abe has accepted a position with the City of Bloomington and her last working day was September 6th. We are sad to see her go but excited to see her advancing in her career.
 - Dylan Armstead will join us on September 23rd and brings more than 10 years' experience both as a Community Development Director in Zumbrota, Minnesota and as a licensed realtor.
- Bio District Consultant RFP:
 - The RFP was published August 12th and applications are due in early October with consultant interviews mid-October and consultant selection in later October or early November.
- Oxbow RFP:
 - We are working on revisions to the RFQ which we hope to publish in the next month.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

Restaurant Week | September 23-29, 2024

The 6th Annual Restaurant Week will take place from September 23-29, 2024. The week-long promotional event showcases the diverse dining experiences in Brooklyn Park and encourages residents and community members to explore and support local restaurants. To learn more about Restaurant Week, visit www.brooklynpark.org/restaurant-week/. If you have any questions, please contact Josephine Thao at Josephine.Thao@brooklynpark.org.



Brooklyn Park Small Business Center

The Brooklyn Park Small Business Center (BPSBC) is nearing full capacity, with 80 members occupying its office and retail spaces. Recently, the center hosted several key events, including the US Bank Executive Bus Tour, which highlighted the success of Black-owned businesses in the area. During the tour, the Small Business Center, I Alexander Agency, Push for Prosperity, and other Black-owned businesses received special recognition.



The BPSBC also concluded the final seminar in US Bank's financial literacy program and hosted a financial workshop in partnership with Huntington Bank. On September 5th, the center celebrated its one-year anniversary, acknowledging the dedication and commitment of BPSBC staff, City staff, community partners, and vendors to the Brooklyn Park business community.



At the anniversary event, the BPSBC Advisory Committee, composed of center members, was introduced. This committee will serve as a voice for the members, providing feedback on SBC initiatives, programs, and concerns.

On September 10th, Hennepin County, in partnership with Brooklyn Park, launched its second CEO Start Cohort, welcoming 15 new businesses to the program.

Angels Living Groundbreaking

Angels Living, a new assisted-living and memory care facility, broke ground on August 23rd at 9415 West River Road in Brooklyn Park. The center will feature 34 units, with 20 dedicated to memory care, and is expected to open in the spring.

Developer Ayo Awoloye, CEO of Maple Care Homes, noted that this project has been years in the making. Councilmember Xp Lee added, "Brooklyn Park has a vision for the future, and Angels Living will be a vital part of that vision, providing a place for our seniors to call home and where they can continue to thrive."



DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

Village Creek Apartments

The George Group North project continues to seek funding for its 83-unit, mixed-income project with a commercial kitchen and community serving uses at 7621 Brooklyn Blvd. The developer is seeking primary financing through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and has passed the initial screening with the intent of submitting a full application this month. The goal is to close on the project this year. Should the team receive approval for its HUD application, staff may bring this project back to the EDA for consideration this year.

4120 85th Ave N Purchase

This property closed on Wednesday, September 13. The EDA is now the full owner of this 6-acre strategic acquisition site as well as the 1-acre property next door. Next steps for this project include developing a more comprehensive vision for development on this property.

Christina's Day Care

Christina's, which is owned and operated by Brooklyn Park residents Stephen and Ophelia Zoegar, currently operates in Crystal, MN where they serve 80 families, 90% of whom use Hennepin County's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) dollars to help pay their childcare costs. The Brooklyn Park facility would be an expansion of the Crystal facility and plans to continue accepting CCAP funds in order to cater to low- and moderate-income families.

Currently, Christina's Daycare owner is working with two financial institutions and will be bringing an approved financial commitment letter to the EDA in October for approval.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

BrookLynk

On August 23rd, BrookLynk hosted its 9th Annual Summer Celebration at Brooklyn Park's Central Park. This fun filled event brought together youth, families, employers, and community partners from BrookLynk's summer internship program to recognize all who participated in the 10-week internship program. This year BrookLynk also had the opportunity to recognize the youth that successfully completed the 6-week online training series (OTS). OTS was launched in 2020 in response to the state's restrictions on in-person gathering and has since shifted to focus on providing a paid workforce development opportunity for 14 and 15-year-olds that live and/or attend school in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. 2024 marked the first year that BrookLynk was able to provide a paid summer experience exclusively for middle school and high school age youth.



BrookLynk is happy to report that during the 2024 program year 96 youth were matched to summer internships. Of the BrookLynk interns matched 22 interns were hired at the City of Brooklyn Park and 7 interns were hired at the City of Brooklyn Center. Together the cities of Brooklyn Park & Brooklyn Center hosted 29 interns this summer. In addition to the two cities, 16 employer partners across a variety of industries and sectors including manufacturing, education, marketing, and more employed more than 60 youth from the Brooklyns. In addition to summer internships, 339 youth completed Get Ready! work readiness training from January – March 2024 and 15 youth completed the online training series. During the 2024 program year BrookLynk successfully engaged 450 youth. Since its launch in 2015 BrookLynk has provided workforce development programming to more than 3,000 youth and counting in the Brooklyns and surrounding areas. BrookLynk is pleased to report that for the second consecutive year the program exceeded its goal to have at least 50% of summer interns being from Brooklyn Center, this year 58% of interns reported living and/or attending school in Brooklyn Center.

HOUSING UPDATES:

Summer Blossom Awards Program

The 25th Annual Summer Blossom Awards Program was held this past summer, celebrating the most beautiful gardens and landscapes in Brooklyn Park. This competitive program aims to recognize both residents and businesses that contribute to enhancing the city's natural landscape. By showcasing well-maintained homes and neighborhoods, the program fosters a sense of pride and well-being within the community. Nominations for the awards were accepted from May 13 through July 12, with submissions from gardeners, neighbors, friends, and community members.



Grand winners in the Single-Family, Townhome, Neighborhood, and Commercial categories will each receive a \$400 check along with an engraved paver. Additionally, first place winners in the Single-Family category will be awarded a \$100 check along with an engraved paver. Below is a list of this year's winners:

Category	Address	Gardeners
Grand Winner (First Place Winner) - Single-Family, District 2	2125 74th Ct N	Hak Leav
• First Place Winner - Single-Family, District 1	6265 Yukon Ave N	Sheila Amundson
• First Place Winner - Single-Family, District 3	9702 Linden Ave N	Stanley Walton
• First Place Winner - Single-Family, District 4	8842 Kentucky Ave N	Judy Willenbring
Grand Winner - Townhome	6520 84th Ct N	Mary Fischer
Grand Winner - Neighborhood	7601 Zane Ave N	Creekside Gables
Grand Winner - Commercial	8500 Jefferson Ln N	Patio Town

The winners were formally recognized at the City Council Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024. A story map showcasing photos of all the winning gardens was developed and can be viewed on the City's website at www.brooklynpark.org/neighborhoods/summer-blossom/. If you have any questions, please contact Josephine Thao at Josephine.Thao@brooklynpark.org.

Homeowners' Association (HOA) Resources

During the October 2nd City Council Work Session, staff presented information regarding how the city currently interacts with Homeowners Associations (HOAs) in Brooklyn Park. At the meeting Council Members heard from staff and an HOA attorney about the challenges that exist within HOA communities. Council Members directed staff to explore various ways of working with HOAs in the community to create a sense of accountability and access to needed resources for homeowners. Based on the feedback received at the HOA meetings and the Council work session, staff developed a plan that included creating a webpage for resident to access resources located here:

<https://www.brooklynpark.org/housing/homeowner-resources/homeowners-associations/>

Home Improvement Loan Programs Update

The EDA administers several housing reinvestment programs that provide financial resources to first time homebuyers, single-family and townhome homeowners in the community. In the fiscal year 2024, the EDA allocated \$1.5 million for the home improvement programs administered by CEE. Homeowner programs were redesigned in 2019 to increase the number of residents making improvements to their homes and to provide needed resources for future homebuyers. The redesigned and revamped programs have been a huge success with funds for multiple programs expended rapidly. About 104 loans amounting to over \$1.2 million have been closed beginning January 2024 to August 31, 2024. These are programs administered in partnership with the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE). The most popular programs are the down payment assistance for the first-time homebuyers, senior deferred loan for seniors, and the low interest revolving loan.

Staff Participation in Housing Groups

Staff participates regularly in various regional groups on the topic of housing, including:

- Anti-displacement Working Group created by the Metro Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (BLRT) project office and Hennepin County.
- Housing Collaborative hosted by Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and focused on education, info sharing, and collaboration among city staff on housing programs and policies.
- Regional Housing Policy Work Group hosted by Urban Land Institute (ULI) Minnesota.
- Government Equitable Development Community of Practice hosted by the Metropolitan Council.

Other Housing Policy Work Currently Underway

- Apartment Action Plan 2.0 (2018-present)
- CURA Housing Stability study implementation
- Fair Housing Training
- Establishment of a Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF)

OTHER UPDATES:

MNCAR (Minnesota Commercial Association of Real Estate/Realtors) Expo

Community Development Director/EDA Executive Director Gladhill will be attending the 17th Annual MNCAR Expo on October 30, 2024. This is an excellent opportunity to meeting with business, developer, and site selector prospects to help advance Brooklyn Park's economic development goals. More information can be found online at <https://www.mncar.org/events/mncar-signature-events/mncar-expo/>. If EDA Commissioners desire to attend, please connect with Seng Moua at 763-493-8059 or Seng.Moua@brooklynpark.org to register.

Attachments: N/A