Anticipated Expenses and Revenue for 2020

July 21, 2020

Prepared by Jon Fure, CRC Executive Director

Changes from the 2020 adopted budget:

1. New rent expense will be $7,940 (budget was $9,000, so that reduces projected shortfall by $1,060)
2. Internet / phone expense will be reduced by $680 (Internet connection is now unnecessary due to WiFi in the building, and Ring Central is about $45 per month, whereas CenturyLink was $110 -120 per month).
3. Moving expense ($400) added

Adopted budget had an anticipated shortfall of $4,747, so with those changes, the anticipated shortfall is $3,407.

Wayfinding project update:

CRC has been awarded a $25,000 Cultural STAR grant, which requires a 1-to-1 match with non-City dollars. The Saint Paul Downtown Alliance signed onto the project and agreed to help raise the matching dollars. The initial plan was to hire a consultant to study the regulatory environment (restrictions on exterior signage, Heritage Preservation regulations, etc.), and to identify other barriers to a wayfinding system. We were also planning to seek a consultant to potentially develop a mobile app for Downtown Saint Paul.

Since then, I worked with Downtown Alliance staff to submit a successful proposal to the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Rural Affairs (CURA) through the Resilient Communities Project. Through that project, we will pay $12,000 to work with groups of students to do this work (not including the mobile app development). The University provides the matching dollars, because the $12,000 that we would pay only pays for a portion (a little less than half) of the total amount of time and money spent on the project by students, faculty, and CURA staff.

The original proposal for the STAR grant included $5,000 to CRC that would cover staff expenses related to grant administration. Now that we are instead working students, I am going to request a higher amount of that $25,000 that will be spent on my time with the students. I’ve also spent time contacting City departments (PED, Public Works, DSI, and the HPC) to make sure that someone is assigned to provide information to the students and respond to questions that relate to wayfinding. In my opinion, it will be possible for CRC to close the anticipated budget shortfall by paying for more of my time with the Cultural STAR grant, which will allow us to use the City Community Engagement dollars to pay for other eligible expenses.

While the Cultural STAR grant will help us balance expenses and revenue for the year, it won’t enable us to build up our reserves, so we would need to raise additional non-restricted donations and / or grants.