



March 6, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: *Rice Park Revitalization Project*

To the CIB Community Facilities Committee,

The Minnesota Wild organization is pleased to submit this letter of support for the 2016-2017 CIB proposal for the Rice Park Revitalization project.

The concept plan activates Rice Park by adding a central space for activities and gatherings, which can be an important benefit to events we host or support at Xcel Energy Center and Saint Paul RiverCentre that have a keen interest in utilizing additional outdoor space.

Additionally, thousands of our guests and staff frequently visit or pass through Rice Park as they explore downtown Saint Paul. It's an important space that can and should serve as a beautiful, welcoming reflection of our capital city; one that is comfortable, useful and hard to leave.

The proposed project will also be beneficial to downtown Saint Paul residents and visitors and we encourage its completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Leipold".

Craig Leipold
Owner and NHL Governor
Minnesota Wild



THE SAINT PAUL HOTEL

March 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee of Saint Paul
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear CIB Committee Members:

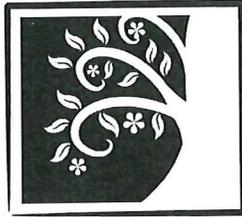
On behalf of The Saint Paul Hotel, I am happy to support Saint Paul Parks and Recreation's request for CIB funds for the project, Rice Park Revitalization.

Rice Park is a jewel in the crown of downtown Saint Paul. Flanked by some of our most beautiful historic buildings, Rice Park provides a vital and active public space for festivals, events and daily gatherings. However, the last major investment was in 1999, over 15 years ago. Although beautiful and active, Rice Park is in need of funds that will address ongoing issues of security and overuse which discourage use of the park and greatly affect the safety and vitality of the neighborhood.

We encourage the CIB Committee to fund St. Paul Parks and Recreation's application for revitalization funds for the park, and are committed to reinvesting in Rice Park to continue its vitality in new and dynamic ways.

Sincerely,

Ken Boyles
General Manager



Rice Park Association

March 3, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee of Saint Paul
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear CIB Committee Members:

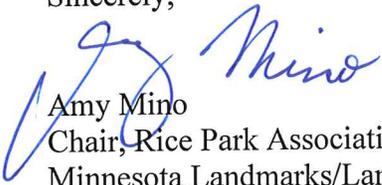
On behalf of the Rice Park Association, we are pleased to support St. Paul Parks and Recreation's request for CIB funds for the project, Rice Park Revitalization.

Rice Park is a jewel in the crown of downtown Saint Paul. Flanked by some of our most beautiful historic buildings, Rice Park provides a picture perfect photo opportunity for the city, as well as a vital and active public space for myriad festivals, events and daily gatherings. Its last major investment of capital funds was in 1999, over 15 years ago. Although beautiful and active, Rice Park is in need of funds that will address ongoing issues of security and overuse that discourage use of the park and imperil the safety and vitality of the neighborhood.

The Rice Park Association, which is comprised of the businesses and neighborhood stakeholders in the Rice Park area, is a vital partner to the City of St. Paul in ensuring the vitality and unique beauty of the Rice Park area since 1989. The Association engages City staff in addressing maintenance and design issues, homelessness within the parks, and safety and neighborhood concerns. In the past year, we have been working hand-in-hand with the St. Paul Garden Club and St. Paul Parks & Recreation to initiate this revitalization effort for Rice Park. The effort addresses concerns at numerous Association meetings over the past several years about the demands of continued use on the park infrastructure, safety and city experience for the users of the park. Reinvestments in lighting, security, enhanced pathways and open space, and landscape restoration have been identified as key priorities for bringing a refreshed and revitalized experience to the park.

With funds provided by the St. Paul Garden Club and Association members, St. Paul Parks and Recreation were able to move forward this year with the concept design for Rice Park revitalization. We are pleased to be part of this public-private partnership and remain committed to its implementation into a refreshed Rice Park that is welcoming to all. We encourage the CIB Committee to fund St. Paul Parks and Recreation's application for revitalization funds for the park and, as partners, are committed to reinvesting in Rice Park to continue its vitality in new and dynamic ways.

Sincerely,


Amy Mino
Chair, Rice Park Association
Minnesota Landmarks/Landmark Center


Pat Steineman
Secretary, Rice Park Association
The Saint Paul Hotel



380 Jackson St., Suite 287

John Bennett , President
Marge Hols, Secretary
Garth Morrisette, Treasurer
Thomas C. Kayser
Dr. John Larkin
George Latimer
Nancy Moeller
Mike Hahm, *ex officio*

March 1, 2015

St. Paul Capital Improvement Budget Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.
St. Paul, MN 55012

Dear C.I.B. Committee:

The Saint Paul Parks Conservancy strongly supports the Rice Park Revitalization Project and urges the C.I.B. Committee to rank it high on its list for public funding.

The Conservancy helps secure private financial support for St. Paul parks and recreation projects, and we want to help raise funds to improve Rice Park. Based on our experience, we cannot emphasize too strongly the importance of using public funding for leverage in raising private funds. Public support is key. It sends the message that a park project is valued and needed by the broad community.

We believe our historic Rice Park is badly in need of a facelift. It certainly is no longer the showplace Saint Paul deserves to welcome citizens and visitors to the heart of the city. The fountain plaza looks shabby and the single ring of seating is not inviting. The lighting is inadequate. The grassy areas shaded by trees have turned to dirt. The 1960s hydraulic irrigation is outdated and often does not work. More flexible spaces are needed for the many family events and other activities held in the park year round.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Bennett".

John Bennett
President



ORDWAY

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts
345 Washington Street Saint Paul, MN 55102 | ordway.org

Ticket Office: 651.224.4222 | Main: 651.282.3000

February 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Rice Park Renovation

Dear CIB Community Facilities Committee Members,

The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities in Rice Park.

Rice Park is an incredibly important urban park, and a major focal point of downtown Saint Paul. It is also of critical importance to the Ordway and its approximately 400,000 annual visitors. The proposed plans will add to the beauty of the Park, of course. Very importantly, they will also enhance the safety and security of patrons crossing the Park in the evenings as they go to and from the Ordway. A vibrant – and safe – downtown will benefit the City and its residents economically as well as culturally.

The proposed project will be beneficial to all who visit the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, and we urge its completion.

Cordially,

Patricia A. Mitchell
President and CEO

March 4, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: Rice Park Revitalization Project Proposal

To the CIB Community Facilities Committee,

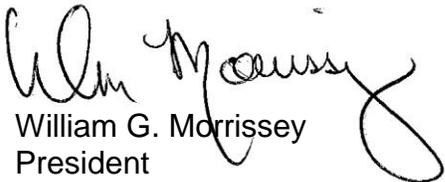
Morrissey Hospitality Companies is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at Rice Park.

Rice Park is a jewel in the upper Midwest and is a highly used public amenity. Workers, residents and visitors love the park and it is the front lawn for a unique collection of Historic Buildings and a World Class Theater. It is a unique urban space that needs attention and care.

We operate The Saint Paul Hotel, The St. Paul Grill and RiverCentre facility so we know firsthand how important and delightful the park is to both citizens and visitors. Please support the revitalization of this precious public space.

The proposed project will be beneficial to the City of St. Paul and we urge its completion.

Sincerely,



William G. Morrissey
President
Morrissey Hospitality Companies, Inc.

Cc: Ms. Anne Gardner

wm/ep



SAINT PAUL
PUBLIC LIBRARY

90 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul MN 55102

Telephone 651-266-7000

Fax 651-266-7060

www.sppl.org

CIB Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W
Saint Paul, MN 55102

March 5, 2015

RE: Rice Park Revitalization Proposal

To the CIB Community Facilities Committee,

The Saint Paul Public Library is happy to submit this letter of support for the CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at Rice Park.

Designated a Great Public Space by the American Planning Association, Rice Park is an integral feature to the buildings surrounding it. When people visit the George Latimer Central Library, Rice Park is a part of their experience.

Upgrades to lighting and irrigation are needed to maintain and protect this cultural asset.

In recognition of the importance of the park to its surroundings, we urge this project's completion.

Sincerely,

Kit Hadley
Saint Paul Public Library Director

A. J. HUSS JR.
PARK TOWERS 23 B
59 4TH STREET WEST
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102
651-292-8128 FAX 651-292-1034
john@thehusses.com

February 28, 2015

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd W.
Saint Paul, MN 55102

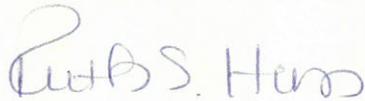
To Whom it May Concern:

My wife and I are residents of downtown Saint Paul, living on Rice Park, across from the Ordway.

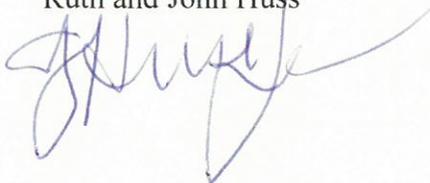
We strongly support the Rice Park Revitalization Initiative. Rice Park is surrounded by The Saint Paul Hotel, our building, Landmark Center, the Hill and George Latimer Central Libraries, and of course, the magnificent Ordway Center with its brand-new Concert Hall.

Revitalizing Rice Park would be an example of how Saint Paul cares for, and improves its assets. Parks make a good city great, and Rice Park is so very important, not only because of its location and beauty, but because many thousands see it as a symbol of a great city.

Respectfully,



Ruth and John Huss



February 16, 2015

Ms. Anne Gardner, Project Manager
City of St. Paul Department of Parks and Recreation
400 City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street
Saint. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Ms. Gardner,

The Saint Paul Garden Club members support the 2015/2016 CIB proposal for the Rice Park Revitalization initiative. When the American Planning Association named Rice Park "one of the 10 Great Public Places for 2011," it credited "the support of dedicated citizens" as well as creative city planning for "ensuring the longevity and vitality of a community treasure." We have been among those "dedicated citizens" for nearly 90 years, working as volunteers in the park's beautification since 1927.

Recently, Saint Paul Garden Club members led the efforts to raise over \$47,000 from our members, the public and several key community leaders to fund the Rice Park Revitalization Phase 1 plan development. Now we look to a partnership with the City, combined with continued private partnership and grants, to move this plan for the heart of St. Paul into the execution phase, enabling Rice Park to realize its potential.

The historic significance of Rice Park, as our City's first public space dating back to 1849, warrants our City's ongoing attention. With its central role in significant events, including the Saint Paul Winter Carnival and the Ordway Flint Hills International Children's Festival, bringing tens of thousands of people to the park each year, Rice Park reflects on the character of our City. The time has come for improved safety features and other improvements, so that Rice Park continues to serve the City, its businesses, residents and visitors for years to come.

Revitalizing Rice Park's electrical, lighting and irrigation infrastructure, implementing a purposeful design approach to how the park traffic flows, welcoming the public and providing a more engaging setting to stroll and pause to enjoy the significant architectural surroundings will all keep Rice Park the "community treasure" it has been for over 160 years. And close to our hearts is the opportunity to create more beautiful seasonal displays that can stand the test of pedestrian traffic and the multifaceted uses of Rice Park.

In summary, a collaborative community design process, led by the City and funded with strong support from the members of Saint Paul Garden Club and others, brings us to this exciting juncture with a go-forward plan that addresses the considerations of the collective input. Now we ask the key stakeholders, including the City of Saint Paul, to join us in providing the human and financial resources to execute the Rice Park Revitalization initiative.

Sincerely,



Maureen Adelman
President, Saint Paul Garden Club

cc: Mr. Vance Opperman
Mr. Craig Leipold

To: Capitol Improvement Budget Committee

Re: Rice Park Revitalization Project

The Rice Park area surrounded by Landmark Center, the Saint Paul Hotel and other architectural gems like the Ordway, is the crown jewel of downtown St. Paul, as we all know. Various 'bandaids' have succeeded in maintaining the park's beauty over the years, but inevitably plantings become old and high usage by those enjoying the park take their toll. Now is the optimal time to restore Rice Park to its original beauty so that both our residents and folks visiting from out of town can take pride in and enjoy one of the country's most beautiful downtown areas.

Please make this a priority as you consider park funding.

Sincerely-

Blanche Hawkins
St. Paul Garden Club

CIB Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

March 2, 2015

Dear CIB Committee Members,

I am a member of the Rice Park Revitalization Committee and the Design Advisory Committee for Rice Park. I am also a member of the St. Paul Garden Club.

I was born and raised in St. Paul spending many enjoyable times throughout the years in Rice Park. I am honored to be on the Rice Park Advisory Committee steering the vision of this historic park.

Before the park can be revitalized however, there is a need for infrastructural improvements. There are many who would like to see the park brought back to its "jewel" status, but before that happens, the park needs to address its foundation, so to speak.

There are major irrigation/plumbing issues that go back years. We believe the irrigation system dates from the 1970's and should be brought up to 2015 standards. As one of the members of St. Paul Garden Club who helps in maintaining the gardens and containers, I have found that the irrigation is not to be relied on. It has been "out of order" for the last two plus years requiring the City to hand water the gardens and containers throughout the park. The turf is on its own and completely stressed out due to its constant calendar of events.

The electrical wiring is also in need of updates. I have been down in the park with wiring hanging off trees, flowing freely in the wind and park guests using the electrical receptacles at the bases of the trees for their own enjoyment plus multiple extension cords traipsed throughout the park for events just waiting for an accident to happen.

With the existing hardscape, there is concern as to where the storm water is retreating with its runoff. All of us are aware of the urgency to tackle this problem. By addressing this now, we can avoid many obstacles down the road.

This park has given tirelessly to the City for all of the events it has been asked to host. It is time to step up and bring Rice Park up to code. We need this foundation in order to revitalize the park. Once this is done, we, the public and private sector can work together to finish the job; that being a revitalized, refreshed park open for all to enjoy for many years to come.

Thank you for considering Rice Park for a CIB grant.
It is most worthy of your grant and will do you proud!!

Sincerely,



Colleen FitzPatrick
Rice Park Design Advisory Committee Member
St. Paul Garden Club Member

Capital Improvement Budget Committee
700 City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd., West
St. Paul, MN 55102

March 3, 2015

Dear C.I.B. Committee Members,

We are writing to you to ask for your help to provide funds for the Rice Park Revitalization project. Over many years, The St. Paul Garden Club volunteered and continues to volunteer their time to install and maintain the planters and gardens in Rice Park. Our members, all volunteers, also planted and continue to maintain the north Hosta bed and the south garden along with tidying up the park with the removal of trash and the sweeping up of debris. Last spring, we funded and helped to install (along with SPPR and other community volunteers), 140 Taunton yews. We love Rice Park with many others; we enjoy this space with the beauty and vitality it provides for lunching, resting and enjoying events. Rice Park, known as the "crown jewel" of St. Paul, is in much need of polishing.

As lovely as Rice Park is, improvements are necessary. The impressive buildings surrounding the Park are all in mint condition. Rice Park begs to be in mint condition. With patchy sod, a hodge-podge of trees, sadly inadequate lighting and a lack of friendly seating, the Park shows signs of neglect. Before any of the aforementioned issues can be addressed, we are asking for help from the C.I.B. Committee to restore the infrastructure, which would be step number one on the list of improvements. This would include bringing the irrigation, lighting and electrical up to current standards. As proposed by The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreations Department, this cost is estimated to be 1.2 million dollars.

In March of 2014, The St. Paul Garden Club raised over \$47,000 to fund a plan to revitalize Rice Park. Now what a timely opportunity we have, with plan in hand, to implement this exciting vision for the benefit of those downtown and our many visitors and tourists.

It is time for Rice Park, who has served us so well, to receive what it richly deserves - A REVITALIZATION!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Kelly
Colleen FitzPatrick

The St. Paul Garden Club Members
Rice Park Ad Hoc Committee Members
Rice Park Design Advisory Committee Members
Rice Park Association Representatives

March 3, 2015

RE: *Rice Park Improvements*

The **Fanfare Attractions llc** is happy to submit this letter of support for the 2016/2017 CIB proposal to upgrade the facilities at *Rice Park*.

This project benefits our community in the following ways:

1. Community programming during Saint Paul Winter Carnival
2. Showcase Rice Park as one of the signature parks in Saint Paul
3. Having more interactive spaces in Rice Park during the Winter months
4. Able to utilize the park 365 days a year.
5. Providing an upgraded electrical plan for use in the Park
6. Enhances the ability to showcase downtown Saint Paul
7. Building greater Communities in downtown Saint Paul

The proposed project will be beneficial to *many Community Festivals and Special Events* and we urge its completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Randy L. Dewitz".

Randy L. Dewitz, CFM
Director of Operations, Saint Paul Winter Carnival
Principal, Fanfare Attractions, LLC