

**Recap of the East Town Business Partnership Business Forum**  
**“Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategies for the City of Minneapolis”**

**Thursday, February 17, 2022, 12:00–1:00 p.m.**

**Hybrid Event: Sawatdee Thai Restaurant and via Zoom**

[https://zoom.us/rec/play/wWxBF6GaxemSgU2vt-dC4VE4gdIvbTvEcYCTz-SlJiK4vD0jMEW-Rw5k6pRk7Md6hPLmDk54cd5-MSW\\_9USZjWoWILLDAqzM?continueMode=true&\\_xzm\\_rtaid=YY9qln0FRA-OsXeI9V\\_VA.1646301583484.e9dbcca5bfaa80f5176d9c14364f9611&\\_xzm\\_rhtaid=44; Passcode pkp&1EQ4](https://zoom.us/rec/play/wWxBF6GaxemSgU2vt-dC4VE4gdIvbTvEcYCTz-SlJiK4vD0jMEW-Rw5k6pRk7Md6hPLmDk54cd5-MSW_9USZjWoWILLDAqzM?continueMode=true&_xzm_rtaid=YY9qln0FRA-OsXeI9V_VA.1646301583484.e9dbcca5bfaa80f5176d9c14364f9611&_xzm_rhtaid=44; Passcode pkp&1EQ4)

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

ETBP President Julia Lauwagie from MN Adult & Teen Challenge, who was broadcasting from Sawatdee Thai Restaurant, welcomed everyone for joining in person and online.

ETBP Executive Director Dan Collison, facilitator and technician for all their virtual meetings, also welcomed everyone for joining, and noted this feels so Black Mirror ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_Mirror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Mirror)) and it’s our emerging reality.

Lauwagie then asked everyone to introduce themselves, during which Cyndy Harrison, owner of Sawatdee Thai Restaurant (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/cyndy-harrison-b1a8b54/>) and ETBP Board member, welcomed everyone who came out, and advised they’ve been at the Washington Avenue location since 1986 (<https://www.sawatdee.com/our-history>) and last year underwent a remodel so if it’s your first time back she hopes you like it.

**Other Attendees at Sawatdee**

Dave Carlson, Watson-Forsberg Company  
Daniel Jacobson, Pixelwerx  
Brian Maupin, Allied Parking, ETBP Board  
Gladys Meijia, Aflac, Creative Entrepreneur  
Arie Neumann, Clear Channel Outdoor  
Taylor Smrikárova, Seward Redesign  
Matthew Weiland, Clear Channel Outdoor

**Attendees via Zoom or Phone**

Martha Archer, Mill City Farmers Market  
Andrea Brennan, Minneapolis CPED  
Garfield Clark, Brokerage, Development, Leasing  
Chris Johnson, Community-based Transportation Planning  
Christie Rock Hantge, ETBP Executive Coordinator  
Elizabeth Lyden, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
Roger Raina, National Item Processing  
Carletta Sweet, DMNA, ETBP Board  
Wendy Underwood, Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, ETBP Board

**II. Announcements**

Collison reported on the following:

**A. Appreciation for the 2021–2022 Platinum Sponsors**

American Academy of Neurology	Minnesota Vikings
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis	Padilla
CenterPoint Energy	Sherman Associates
Clear Channel	Sherman-Williams
Clearway Energy	Trellis Company
ESG Architecture & Design	Thrivent
Hennepin Healthcare	U. S. Bank
Kraus-Anderson	Wells Fargo

Participation is accessible, membership is affordable, and every membership matters. Then he extended a special thanks to our platinum sponsors who help put fuel in our tank to cover the cost of programming and staff who bring together

the multifaceted neighborhoods of Downtown East and Elliot Park.

- B. Next Hybrid Business Forum** will take place on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the FINNOVATION Lab (<https://www.finn-lab.com/>) on the 4th floor of FINNEGANS House (<https://finnegans.org/about-us/finnegans-house/>), and will feature a panel discussion with the Young Professionals of Minneapolis (<https://easttownmpls.org/event/etbp-hybrid-business-forum-on-march-17-offered-in-person-and-online-via-zoom/>).
- C. Minneapolis Downtown Council Reanimation Collective Impact** continues Thursday, February 24th, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at The Hennepin (<https://www.mplsdowntown.com/registration220224/>).
- D. Friends of the Falls** is having community conversations with Native leaders, the design team, and stakeholders to discuss topics such as restoration, programming, connectivity, and economic opportunity to create a place of healing and celebration at Owámmiyomni (Dakota for St. Anthony Falls), a process analogous to what was done in the case of Owamni Restaurant (<https://owamni.com/>) at the \$30 million Water Works project ([https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks\\_destinations/parks\\_lakes/water-works-at-mill-ruins-park/](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/parks_destinations/parks_lakes/water-works-at-mill-ruins-park/)). For upcoming dates for community conversations, visit <https://thefalls.org/events/>.
- E. Mill City Farmers Market Indoor Winter Market at Mill City Museum** continues on select Saturdays until April 23rd (<https://millcityfarmersmarket.org/visit/>). See his videography of this award-winning market on the ETBP website (<https://easttownmpls.org/video-gallery/>).
- F. Neighborhood Associations Updates**
  - 1. Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc.** conducts Building, Land Use and Housing (<https://www.elliottpark.org/bluh>) meetings and other activities. Visit their website to learn more about what's happening.
  - 2. Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association** has an upcoming monthly Board meeting on Monday, February 28th (<https://www.thedmna.org/event/dmna-board-meeting-on-monday-february-28-at-545-p-m-via-zoom/>). It also conducts monthly Land Use, Civic Engagement, and HOA Committee meetings. Visit their website at <https://www.thedmna.org/> to learn more about what's happening.
- G. Elevate Business Hennepin County** (<https://www.elevatebusinesshc.com/home>) offers free advising and other resources to help businesses in Hennepin County recover from the pandemic and build for future growth.
- H. The Minneapolis Business Team** will help your business navigate City Hall with your business questions. Visit their Business Portal (<https://business.minneapolismn.gov/>) which is designed to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch, and grow a business.

### III. Spotlight Presentation: Catholic Charities at Elliot Park Project

Wendy Underwood, Vice President of Social Justice Advocacy & Engagement (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/wendy-underwood-mba-8354942/>), extended thanks to Elizabeth Lyden, Community Engagement & Partnerships Manager (<https://trailblazer.me/id/eklyden>) and member of Elliot Park Neighborhood Inc (<https://www.elliottpark.org/about>), who is helping her out today and has been instrumental in their work.

Underwood then displayed a map to give context to the breadth and scope of their organization. They are the region's largest direct service provider for permanent supportive housing and emergency shelter across both Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. They have an amazing Child Development Center in North Minneapolis, provide mental health support for youth in Minneapolis public schools [through the Children's Day Treatment], and run a family emergency shelter [at Dorothy Day Place] in St. Paul, so they support the gamut and serve over 20,000 people annually.

Next she turned to the project they've had underway for the last couple years in Elliot Park a few short blocks from their former Administration Center across from the Minneapolis Convention Center. It's a world of difference for them as team members being in the same facility with other programs and broader teams. All the administrative functions and programs in properties they've recently sold – 1276 University Avenue West, St. Paul; 1200 2nd Avenue South [the historic Architects

and Engineers Building]; St. Joseph's Home for Children – will be moving to 1007 East 14th Street, the former Augustana Health Care Center, along with a total of 203 apartments. When they purchased this property a couple years ago (<https://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2021/01/06/catholic-charities-augustana-housing.html>), it was a fantastic example of using Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Bonds (HIB), Hennepin County and City resources, as well as private philanthropic dollars to bring it to fruition.

To acknowledge the complex's location along the park on South 14th Street, it will be called Catholic Charities of Elliot Park, and it will be the primary entrance to the Administration Center which has approximately 100 team members, plus Aging and Disability Services from St. Paul with has approximately another 100 team members, so on any given day during the week they can have up to 200 team members working out of this site.

They are thrilled to be host of a beautiful Recuperative Care Center run by Hennepin Healthcare for the Homeless (<https://www.hennepin.us/hch>) where a person experiencing homeless in the emergency room can be discharged to one of the 30 rooms at the RCC where they can improve their health and receive case management and other supportive services. They operate a smaller version at the former Exodus Residence and one in St. Paul. HHH will also run the regular full-time clinic offering a variety of services including psychiatric care to residents in the building as well as community members who meet the eligible income criteria.

Once the Exodus Residence is sold to Minneapolis-based Aeon to renovate (<https://www.startribune.com/st-anthony-aeon-st-olaf-catholic-church-join-on-largest-affordable-housing-project-in-downtown-mpls/600064587/>), CC will move those residents to the campus along 11th Avenue South where a separate entrance will be called Endeavors and comprised of 173 deeply affordable SRO and Efficiency apartments for HUD-VASH vouchers ([https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/public\\_indian\\_housing/programs/hcv/vash](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash)), elderly, medically frail, and chronically homeless adults. This move is daunting but exciting and the warm reception in the neighborhood has made it that much better.

They are lucky considering they closed on this during the pandemic and until recently hadn't been impacted by the supply chain imbalance, so they're a little ahead of schedule and will have the Certificate of Occupancy on March 1st, and then begin moving in staff and residents over the summer. They have staff from all corners of the metro who are looking forward to having a place to come back to and supporting their residents. There'll be tours so that neighbors, residents, and staff get to know each other and learn about the amenities, and there'll be volunteer opportunities to help ready the building for opening. For more information, follow them on all the social media channels and sign up to receive their monthly E-news.

#### **IV. Inclusive Economic Strategies for the City of Minneapolis**

Andrea Brennan, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrea-brennan-85597417/>), said she's impressed with the work that Underwood is doing and the City is excited to be a part of it. It's perfect to have both their presentations at the same meeting because it illustrates how the City operates; everything they do is in partnership with others and CC's Elliot Park project is a perfect example of their willingness to step forward with an amazing set of solutions to some really big challenges, so they're grateful for that partnership

Brennan then gave an overview of how the City is responding to the multiple crises we've had in the last couple of years by first explaining that all of CPED's work is based upon relatively recent adopted City Council policy, and the biggest is Minneapolis 2040. Then she quoted some data to illustrate the impact of the crises, e.g., 55,507 COVID cases and 517 deaths; over 1,700 businesses closed; over 100 homeless encampments; in the aftermath of civic unrest in 2020, there was over \$350 million damages to private property and businesses. There is collaboration in all phases of emergency, i.e., much of 2020 and 2021 was spent in the immediate Response and Relief phases, and she's pleased that beginning in 2021 and going forward in 2022 they're moving into the Recovery phase where they're thinking strategically in a way that will help them come out of this stronger than ever and be able to sustain that strength over time. Their work is done through the Community Partnered Approach with key stakeholders and community partners, e.g., after the civil unrest Mayor Frey's Office came up with Minneapolis Forward: Community Now Coalition and the 8 areas of action (<https://www.minneapolisforward.com/about>) to focus on inclusive economic strategies. All the things the City is doing is intended to focus on eliminating disparities and ensuring, as we come out of these crises, residents, businesses and owners who have been a part of making Minneapolis a great place continue to be able to thrive.

**V. Closing Remarks**

Collison thanked Brennan for her presentation, Sawatdee for hosting, everyone who joined online, and a special love to those who joined in person then exclaimed we'll do hybrid forever. Next month we'll be at the FINNOVATION Lab where you'll be able to hang out for St. Patrick's Day beer at FINNEGANS Brewery and Taproom, and in April we're looking to hold our annual meeting at U.S. Bank Stadium and hear some terrific update from Board members. Then he thanked everyone and implored them to keep in touch and to make Downtown East and Elliot Park in East Town a really special place.