

The Resilient Reader

Resilient Region Stories



Affordable Housing/Housing

October 2015



Service Member Housing Done Resiliently

WHO: Champions of the Affordable Housing/Housing theme are:

Jennifer Bergman (Executive Director)-Brainerd HRA

Colleen Faacks (Executive Director)-Mid-MN Builders Association

Janie Weston (Executive Director)-Greater Lakes Association of Realtors

Deanna Hemmesch (Executive Director)-Central MN Housing Partnership

The Affordable Housing/Housing Champions and the organizations they represent have been active in addressing the needs for affordable housing in the region.

Central Minnesota Housing Partnership (CMHP) in St. Cloud, which was founded in 1993, serves 16 counties in Central Minnesota and has access to over \$255,000,000 through various programs and funders to assist the region in addressing needs.

Brainerd HRA manages over 200 public housing units in Central Minnesota. They serve low income and assisted income families in need of affordable housing.

The Mid-Minnesota Builders Association and the Greater Lakes Association of Realtors have served as important counsel on housing programs by looking at how this initiative adds value and aligns with the building trades and professional realtor association regional goals.

A notable part of this initiative has been the participation of the McQuinn family, a locally respected family with land they are considering housing options for. The McQuinn family representative, Mary Jetland, has been involved since the inception and has been open to all ideas that make this investment valued and long lasting.

WHAT: Resilient Region Housing Champions have been invested in a Service Member Housing Project. The first step was planning a development that would be very different from the traditional planned unit development (PUD). Region Five Development Commission, the Central MN Housing Partnership and the Crow Wing County/Brainerd Housing Redevelopment Authority convened a diverse group of people and organizations to design how this type of development could serve the service member population.

Planning commenced with county veteran service organizations, acting duty officers from Camp Ripley, local food organizations, county officials, city and state legislatures, and other providers to assist in creating the grand design.



Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority Headquarters

WHERE/WHY: The Service Member Housing Project addresses the needs of an underserved population in the region and addresses affordable and workforce housing shortages.

HOW: With financial support from the Crow Wing County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, an engineering and architecture firm has been hired to incorporate ideas generated from the community visioning meetings into the final plan design.

The intent is to think broadly about quality of life and how the 10 Resilient Region Theme areas could impact a development if dreams could be BIG.

This region is envisioning a development that includes amazing **built features** such as.....

Solar thermal green-houses attached to homes, community gardens and green spaces such as parks, recreational building for community activities, sidewalks for safe walking, access to broadband,

.....but has MUCH MORE, such as.....

A concierge service that helps residents organize community activities and find services such as educational opportunities, job placement or employment programs, transportation services, access to health care and mental health services, day care, senior services, recreational opportunities or programs for veterans and acting duty service persons.

WHEN: This project has been in progress for about 1 year now. The team is hopeful that the development will begin in summer 2017.

Links for Affordable Housing/Housing:

Central Minnesota Housing Partnership <http://cmhp.net>

Brainerd HRA <http://brainerdhra.org>

Mid-Minnesota Builders Association <http://www.midmnba.org>

Greater Lakes Association of Realtors Association <http://greaterlakesrealtors.com>