

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Meeting
Minutes, April 28, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Present: Greg Guttman, Angie Marks, Mike McGarry, Charles Newsome, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Eric Thompson, and Wendy Williams

Absent: Anthony Beach (excused), Mike McGarry, Nancy Stanek

Also Present: Brandon Evans (SSA Program Administrator), Diane Burnham (SECC), Isaac Greene (SSA/SECC), Aaron Gettinger (Herald Newspaper), Sue Freehling (SECC), Shirley J. Newsome (SECC), Jourdan Sorrell (SECC)

A quorum being present, Chairman Rumsey called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes were accepted as circulated.

Commissioner Check-in – SSA Commissioners and Guests

The Commissioners and guests shared their experiences working/living through this global pandemic. Some thoughts shared:

- University of Chicago – focus on businesses, organizations, and communities. Thus far 3,000 meals have been distributed and the level of food insecurity in the neighborhoods is a problem. A total of 182 relief funds to businesses, 48 in Hyde Park in the amount of \$165,000, have been granted. Community Programs Accelerator continues to support nonprofits (\$400,000).
- George Rumsey has assisted in the submission of 17 grants for teen moms due to lack of resources within a 3-week cycle.
- Mary Rogel expressed concern for the challenges small business such as herself whom have fallen through the cracks in relation to the Payroll Protection Program application process.

SSA Financials – Isaac Greene, SSA #61 Account

Refer to the attached statement of financials.

Finance Committee/FY20 Budget Reallocation

The reallocation will be presented by the Finance Committee circulated to the Commissioners and submitted to the city. The amount of \$24,500 will be redirected to other services. The Finance Committee will share the preliminary decision on the redeployment of funds timeline within 2 weeks.

In addition, each commissioner has been asked to email their ideas for the reallocation of funds. Some Comments/Suggestions/Questions were:

1. Do we know the number of businesses that have closed? (S. Newsome)
2. What are the number of partial operations? (S. Newsome)
3. Can we not spend the funds and save for next year's budget? (G. Guttman)
4. Reallocated funds will support which businesses? (G. Guttman)
5. A business survey should be conducted to assess which businesses within the district need assistance, specifically those that may not have received any financial support (PPP, etc)

Farmers Market Update – B. Evans and D. Burnham

A motion was made to postpone the 2020 market and move to 2021. The motion was moved (M. Rogel) and properly seconded (C. Newsome) and carried with no objections and assumed consensus.

Regarding the location of the market, Commissioner Marks had no updated information regarding the Harper Court construction with the current situation of the pandemic however will keep all abreast as information becomes available.

Brandon will notify the farmers and vendors of the market first through the e-newsletter Constant Contact and then a public notification will be made.

Commissioners Applications – B. Evans and R. Vance

All current applications will be reviewed and any information that hasn't been provided the commissioner will be contacted.

Not an Agenda Item:

- What has been the impact on the business district as a whole during the global pandemic?
- 2020 Calendar – update public notice with the virtual meeting information

Questions and Comments

Commissioner Rogel – Old Lake Park a bike rack was hit. What is to happen with it? Can it be removed?

Brandon will contact Cleanslate to have the damaged bike rack removed and have them invoice the SSA separately for the work.

The meeting was adjourned 12:05 pm. The next regular meeting is for Tuesday, May 26, 11:00am, Zoom Virtual Meeting Chicago, IL.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61