

**Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

Present: Greg Guttman, Angie Marks, Charles Newsome, George Rumsey, Nancy Stanek, Eric Thompson, and Wendy Williams

Absent: Mary Rogel, Anthony Beach

Also Present: Brandon Evans (SSA Program Administrator), Diane Burnham (SECC), Elvin Charity (SECC), Mike McGarry, Aaron Gettinger (Herald Newspaper), Stephanie Franklin (Nichols Park), Rev. Charlene Hill, Joshua Tel

A quorum being present, Chairman Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 7:04 p.m. ***Pursuant to the applicable law and his determination that attendance by remote means is necessary because an in-person meeting is not practical nor prudent due to the declared public health disaster cause by COVID-19, this meeting was conducted by videoconference.***

Minutes: Minutes were accepted as corrected.

SSA Financials – B. Evans

Budget tracker is accurate and up to date and will be included along with the monthly financial reporting. Refer to the attached statement of financials.

Small Group Meeting

A small meeting was held to discuss how to recapture TIF funds and to investigate the ordinance that formed Special Service Area 61. Alderman King suggested that the SSA work with the community advisory committees to facilitate the work. Brandon will represent the SSA on the Hyde Park Advisory Committee, and will join the Economics and Employment Committee; he will reach out to the Commissioners to see if any of them are interested in serving on other particular advisory committees.

Reconstitution - SSA 61 expires in 2 years. SSA's have to begin the reconstitution process one year before. Commissioner Guttman is looking for additional commissioners to join this committee and get the process going.

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Working Groups – Alderman wants detailed/specific information on the Lake Park Avenue medians.

Viaduct study (Valerio Dewalt & Stearn) and Lake Park Landscaping– The SSA should start examining issues/needs assessment. Commissioner Stanek noted that one does not need to be a commissioner to participate. Chairman Rumsey will send documents to attendees. Commissioner Stanek, in reference to the median project, expressed that landscaping is a temporary solution/remedy and wouldn't be visible during the winter season. Viaducts would be more impactful mosaics.

TIF Funds – Commissioner Newsome inquired as to how the funds would be spent. Suggested that a “wish list” be compiled, however was not sure as to what would be available from the current TIF funds to cover such projects. Joshua Telser would like to see the dead trees and empty storefronts addressed; even though new businesses are opening as well. Several businesses (approximately 12) on 53rd Street are closed. Commissioner Stanek stated the businesses are closing possibly due to the rent rates.

Aaron (Herald) referenced a Chicago Tribune article on commercial real estate, stating that closures, not just in this area, are due to the decline in foot traffic. The Herald is working on a print article to further discuss the effect of the pandemic on commercial real estate. Commissioner Marks also indicated that some of the businesses that have closed in the area were struggling prior to the pandemic and some businesses elected not to renew their lease. Commissioner Newsome informed the body that there is a great deal of interest in the Kimbark Plaza Shopping Center location.

Commissioner Applications – B. Evans and R. Vance

Brandon has contacted the commissioners regarding documents that he has not yet received. Reminded the Commissioners that the application has to be renewed annually. However, the Ethics Statement does not need to be renewed.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Merchants are pleased with the support the SSA 61 and SECC has provided to them during this most uncertain time.

Questions and Comments from Guests

There being none

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The meeting was adjourned 7:51 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th at 11:00am, Zoom Virtual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61