

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: Anthony Beach, Angie Marks

Also Present: Brandon Evans (SSA Program Administrator), Diane Burnham (SECC), JoAnn Newsome (SECC), Mike McGarry, Isaac Greene, Karen Forte' (SSA Unit), Aaron Gettinger (Herald Newspaper), Stephanie Franklin (NPAC), Gary Ossewaarde (HPKCC), Prentice Butler (4th Ward), Kimberly Webb (5th Ward), Carol and Jane Moy

A quorum being present, Chairman Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:05 a.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.*** The meeting was recorded and is available at [what website?]

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes accepted as corrected.

Questions and Comments from Guests *(per the city should occur at beginning of meetings)*

C. Moy – (1) The exterior of Bank of America (BOA) is a disaster; there is lots of trash. ***SSA has spoken with a representative at BOA and they didn't seem to be concerned about the matter. SSA will look further into it and Diane will send a notice to Cleanslate regarding special attention on the area.*** (2) What is going into the Modern Cooperative space? Any other retail coming to the area? ***Commissioner Williams stated that no formal announcements to date have been announced.*** (3) When is the next power washing of the business district scheduled? ***Brandon stated this service is handled by a separate vendor and he will review their contract. Diane stated a new RFP for corridor cleaning will be sent out shortly.***

SSA Financials – B. Evans and I. Greene

The SSA has received no tax disbursements to date. Due to the carryover net assets increased. Commissioner Rogel questioned why two categories, 2.10 and 2.11, have the same name- tree removal and needs to be cleaned up. It was explained that the

category title sometime changes from year to year. See financial report for detailed information.

Audit Update – B. Evans

The audit is on track and a draft for review is due to SSA by April 15th for discussion and approval at monthly meeting, April 23rd.

Lake Park Medians – George Rumsey

Trees, plantings etc are on hold until financial issues are resolved. Need to identify areas to do landscape streetscape improvements. One example is a \$2,500 budget request from Chairman Rumsey to the SSA for Kimbark Plaza landscaping. Anything under \$5,000 does not require commissioner approval.

- Nichols Park
- 53rd and Blackstone Avenue
- Kimbark Plaza – gardens, heavy pots to anchor the entry, more appealing. Commissioner Newsome stated KP would match funds and donate the money to the service provider as the SSA cannot accept donations.
- 55th and Cornell Avenue (Dare Building)
- Metra platforms – Chairman Rumsey says the project will be somewhere down the line.

Commissioner Stanek suggests using signage as a focal point and branding opportunity. Chairman Rumsey stated to do that SSA would have to issue an RFP and is more work that we want to undertake at this point.

Hyde Park Farmers Market – B. Evans

This year's market will be a curated market and thank you to Hyde Park Bank for the use of a portion of their parking lot on Sundays and Commissioners Williams and Marks with help fostering that conversation. The market begins the second week of June, will feature more local vendors, covid restrictions will be adhered to, a public notice will be announced in May. Hopefully, a different day, time and location will bring more awareness to the market. Commissioner Stanek suggests replacing the banners on Lake Park to advertise for the market.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

K. Webb (5th Ward) – Stated she will keep the SSA informed about 5th ward meetings.

Commissioner Rogel – 53rd Street police activity – a blaring announcement is made periodically. Has anyone else heard this and does anyone know what it is for? [***A prerecorded announcement from the Chicago Police Department informing motorist***](#)

their vehicles will be ticketed or towed due to illegal parking. When are the streets cleaned and how often? *Kimberly Webb will look into it*.

Commissioner Stanek – What are we doing regarding the spending of the money? How can we expect Brandon to facilitate new initiatives on a part-time basis? *Brandon responded that we have to do what makes sense and be open and flexible about changes and what will occur*.

Prentice Butler (4th Ward) – Joint projects meeting with 5th ward, SSA 61 and community organizations on Thursday. Everyone needs to be on the same page regarding SBIF funds spending for 53rd street. Diane, Brandon, and George have a meeting with Benny Currie as well.

The meeting was adjourned 7:54pm. The next regular meeting is for Tuesday April 27th at 11:00am, Zoom Virtual Meeting Chicago, IL.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61