

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: Anthony Beach, Angie Marks, Nancy Stanek

Also Present: Brandon Evans (SSA Program Administrator), Diane Burnham (SECC), Sue Freehling (SECC), James Nurss (First Aid Comics), and Jared Kelly (CEI Media Group)

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 <http://www.downtownhydeparkchicago.com/>

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the May 25th SSA meeting were accepted with the necessary corrections.

Questions and Comments from Guests *(per the city should occur at beginning of meetings. 3 minute limit)*

None.

SSA Financials w/Budget Tracker – B. Evans

Most categories are on track in relation to spending. Funds have yet to be spent from the Economic/Business Development category. Duly noted that the amounts in column C in the financials don't seem to be correct.

Chairman Rumsey questioned if the tax revenue was correct and was the tracker up to date. ***Brandon stated this reflects what is currently being spent, but not what has been received. Rumsey suggested this be corrected.***

The accounting code for CEI Media Group needs to be corrected. Also noted that the January expense for Cleanslate was coded to the incorrect category of tree removal.

The 2022 Budget is approximately \$317,012. The reconstitution [carryover from 2020] is housed under category code 4.00.

2022 Budget Review & Approval – B. Evans

Chairman Rumsey requested a motion to adopt the 2022 budget, the 2022 services and the South East Chicago Commission as the continued 2022 Service Provider. The motion was moved and properly seconded by Commissioners Guttman and Newsome, respectively. There being no objection to the 2022 budget being adopted as is, the budget was accepted by consensus.

Program Committee Updates – D. Burnham, M. Rogel and B. Evans

The committee meets monthly and all commissioners are invited to attend on the first Tuesday of the month. Commissioner Williams and Newsome stated they would like to join the committee and will attend the next scheduled meeting.

- Commissioner Newsome updated on the 53rd /Woodlawn projects; he has contacted Clarence David Landscapers for an assessment. The company will follow up with Commissioner Newsome in a week.
- Façade Enhancement – Clarence David will provide technical assistance to the United Church of Hyde Park. Rev. Hill received a Neighborhood Enhancement Grant and SSA will contribute an additional \$2k-\$4K to cover general cleanup, landscaping, and low fencing. Marcy Schlessinger, a garden specialist, will assist in overseeing the project. Diane will send the committee meeting notes.
- Banner project – Neighborhood input to include influential Hyde Parkers.
- Hyde Park Farmers Market – The opening day for the 2021 market season was Sunday, June 13, with 400 attendees. This year's market is geared toward hybrid programming and is sponsored by Hyde Park Bank (Wintrust) and the University of Chicago Medical Center. This year's market is in a better location, consolidated/compact footprint, and has free parking.

Program Administrator Position Update – B. Evans

Brandon Evans, SSA 61 Program Manager, informed the commissioners he has accepted a position with another organization and his last day in the current position will be Wednesday, June 30. Diane Burnham will facilitate the SSA program until a new program manager has been hired.

The first Program Committee meets on Tuesday, June 1, 10am and anyone who is interested in participating on the committee including Commissioner Guttman and Brandon are to contact Commissioner Rogel. The committee is for oversight/involvement.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Newsome – Kimbark Plaza Plaque near the produce market will be rededicated in September. The current plaque will be restored, with help from the Hyde Park Historical Society

Commissioner Rogel – Graffiti removal, there has been an uptick especially under the viaducts. Chairman Rumsey noted he has seen more graffiti throughout the neighborhood as well. **Diane will contact Metra, Divvy, and any other agencies to see if they could address the damage on their properties.**

Hiring Fair – Tuesday, June 29th at UC Harper Court building. Many of the businesses hiring are within the SSA footprint. OCE/CREO have collaborated on this event and the hiring fair is specifically for businesses in Hyde Park. To date there are 130 attendees registered to attend the fair.

Teen Halloween/55th Street – There is again buzz on social media outlets and neighborhood graffiti already about something this year. Keep your eyes and ears open for any developments.

The meeting was adjourned 11:50am. The next regular meeting is for Tuesday, July 27th at 11:00am, Zoom Virtual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61