

**Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

Present: Anthony Beach, Angie Marks, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Eric Thompson

Absent: Greg Guttman, Charles Newsome, James Nurss, Nancy Stanek and Wendy Williams

Also Present: Diane Burnham (SSA Program Manager, interim), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Joanne and Jane Moy, Sue Freehling (SECC), Tiffany Mikell (SECC), Karen Forte (BACP)

A quorum being present, Chairman Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:06 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/> and on Youtube.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the July 26th SSA meeting were accepted.

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

Carol Moy: The panhandling on 53rd and Blackstone Avenue – what can be done?

Contacted the bank manager and they stated there was nothing they could do to correct the issue. Diane stated she would reach out to her contact at the bank to see if there is anything she could do.

SSA Financials w/Budget Tracker – D. Burnham/G. Rumsey/I. Greene

Correction to the financials – the over(under) column is the same amount as the actual column on the statement of activity. Chairman Rumsey and Diane have worked on a spend down plan for the \$44,000 remaining that must be spent before the close of the year. The wish list includes, but is not limited to:

- A postcard mailer with brand placement as an outreach initiative to the community and neighbors.
- Online directory – all-encompassing/current directory
- Viaduct art panels (needs additional research)

Budget Modification – Finance Committee

The Finance Committee presented the budget modification to the body. The posed question: Are you in favor of the budget modification that was presented to you by the Finance Committee? Vote: Commissioners in favor of the modification - Anthony Beach, Angie Marks, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey and Eric Thompson

Program Committee Updates – D. Burnham, M. Rogel and C. Newsome

Detailed information can be found in the program meeting notes. Commissioner Rogel questioned whether the installations for Kimbark Plaza would block the sightlines of the drivers/traffic. Chairman Rumsey explained the raised beds would not be more than 2 feet high and are set back from the curb and sidewalk, so there will be no interference with sightlines of traffic or pedestrians.

Hyde Park Farmers Market Update – D. Burnham

The market is doing well considering we are working through a pandemic.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Announced the passing of former SSA 61 program director, Eric Reaves on August 19th. Flowers will be sent for the services on behalf of the SSA Commissioners and service provider.

Commissioner Rogel – there is new graffiti on the artwork and throughout the neighborhood. Diane stated there is additional graffiti on the Office Depot building. Commissioner Marks informed the body that the CREO is working on getting it removed.

The meeting was adjourned 12:04pm. The next regular meeting is Tues, September 28th at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61