

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Hybrid Meeting

Present: Anthony Beach, Angie Marks, Charles Newsome, James Nurss, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Eric Thompson and Wendy Williams

Absent: Greg Guttman, Nancy Stanek

Also Present: Diane Burnham (SSA Program Manager, interim), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Prentice Butler, Sue Freehling (SECC) Joanne Moy, Gary Ossewaarde, Jourdan Sorrell (SECC), Karen Forte (BACP) and Jared Kelly (CEI Media Group)

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/>

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the June 22nd SSA meeting were accepted as corrected and amended.

Service Provider Approval

Motion to amend June minutes to incorporate and affirm the acceptance of the South East Chicago Commission as the service provider. Moved and properly seconded by Eric Thompson and Charles Newsome respectively. Unanimously approved by the commission.

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

None.

Tax Collections

Collections are on target and the next tax deposits are expected in late July/August. Some savings are expected due to the executive director currently acting in the role of the program manager.

SSA Financials w/Budget Tracker – G. Rumsey

Updated to include YTD totals, budget column and percentage column to give a detailed picture of the spending.

Hyde Park Farmers Market Update – D. Burnham

The market is located in a better location this year and includes a great selection of vendors. This has resulted in an increase in attendance with an average of 200 visitors weekly.

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

The priority projects are a master list of businesses and the improvements to the landscape plantings to the United Church of Hyde Park. Commissioner Newsome has been coordinating with Clarence Davids regarding the aesthetic improvements for Kimbark Plaza (corner of Woodlawn and 53rd). Diane will follow up with them regarding a proposal to include watering in the maintenance contract.

- Shop Local/Small Business Saturday (SBS) – will extend the time of the shopping campaign this year from the 5 week campaign of 2020.
- Façade Enhancement – A program focusing on storefront improvement projects for east 55th street are in process.
- Banner project – will be replaced with a new design next year.
- Hyde Park Farmers Market – Due to the success of this year’s market, the program will be expanded for the 2022 market season.
- Business corridor aesthetics – to spruce up the corridor a bit, add benches/seating throughout the corridor. There is concern that persons may occupy the seating which would limit access to others.

Reconstitution/SSA/BIDS

SSA 61 is currently in the eighth year of our contract with the city. Currently the city is considering switching from SSA’s to BID’s as they are not as restrictive. Commissioner Newsome inquired if anyone felt the city would move to the BID programming format? George stated he wasn’t sure. What happens with the tax dollars? Where is the funding stream coming from? Prentice Butler stated the TIF disbursement is \$1.5M and the 4th ward alderman’s office has a meeting scheduled with the city to discuss the matter.

The following Commissioners will have to submit new applications for 2021: Wendy Williams, Angie Marks, Anthony Beach and Eric Thompson. In addition, there are 5 vacancies. The child support affidavit form doesn't have to be notarized and due to their website being down the Illinois Opens Meeting Act certification can be ignored for the present time. Ensure that commissioners complete the State of Financial Ethics Form.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

The meeting was adjourned 12:33pm. The next regular meeting is for Tuesday, August 24th at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61

****Please note meeting change from virtual to in-person***