

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Virtual Meeting

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

Absent: Anthony Beach, Angie Marks

Also Present: Diane Burnham (SSA Program Manager, Interim), Stephanie Franklin (NPAC), Sue Freehling (SECC), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Jared Kelly (CEI Media Group), Shaka Mitchell (Pending Commissioner), Joanne Moy, Jourdan Sorrell (SECC)

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. The meeting was recorded and is available at <http://www.downtownhydeparkchicago.com/> and on YouTube.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the September 28th SSA meeting were accepted as circulated.

Questions and Comments from Guests (*per the city should occur at beginning of meetings 3-minute limit*). None

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

The SSA has funds totaling \$156,125 which includes the carryovers for 2021 and 2022. Diane worked on the spenddown plan with Chairman Rumsey and to conserve future costs the Hyde Park Cares and Downtown Hyde Park websites will be migrated into one central point of engagement.

The following programs/initiatives are supported as a part of the spenddown plan:

Shop Local Campaign

Digital Shopping Guide

Banners – Valois and Hyde Park

Fencing – United Church of Hyde Park

Brand placement – postcard mailers

Powerwashing

Trash receptacle – front of United Church of Hyde Park
Kimbark Plaza – landscape project
Online business database
RFP for Mural projects at 53rd and 55th – 15 received to date

Community Meeting – G. Rumsey (recap)

A community meeting is required if the levy increases over 5%. Hyde Park neighborhood values increased necessitating a meeting. The 2020 levy -\$272,421 (0.6364%) equaling to an increase of .22%; 2021 levy-\$295,741 (0.625%) equaling to an increase of 8.16%.

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

- Halloween – Commissioner Newsome inquired if there were any plans in place for activities. Diane stated there are no formal plans in place. An eblast will be sent on Wednesday, October 27th to businesses to remind them of social distancing protocols for any in-store activities the individual business may have planned.
- Flower baskets – Commissioner Rogel shared that the hanging flower basket on east 53rd Street in front of the 5252 Building needs to be replaced.

Program Manager RFP – D. Burnham

The job position was posted to several platforms on/or about September 14th/19th. To date SECC has received 7 submissions and 2 interviews are scheduled. Looking for the “right person/candidate” for the position.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Chairman Newsome – The grand opening/ribbon cutting of the Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce new office with a champagne toast prior to the first Thursday event on Thursday, November 4th. Proof of vaccination or negative test is required.

The meeting was adjourned 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61