

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Present: Anthony Beach, Greg Guttman, Mike McGarry, Shaka Mitchell, Charles Newsome, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Nancy Stanek, Eric Thompson, and Wendy Williams

Absent: Angie Marks, James Nurss

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), JoAnn Newsome (SECC), Kiara Hardin (SECC Program Coordinator), Tiffany Mikell (SECC Program Director), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Charlene Hill

A quorum being present, Chairman Guttman called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:03am. 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 April 26th SSA meeting were accepted as circulated.

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

None were presented by the audience

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

Statement of Financial position - the SSA funds for the month ending 3/31/2022 are:

Cash on hand: \$174K include carryover for 2021

Assets/AR: \$281K (2022) vs \$281K (2021)

Liabilities: \$292K (2022) vs \$296K (2021)

Total Net Assets: \$163K (2022) vs \$154K (2021)

TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS: \$455K (2022) vs \$450K (2021)

First disbursements came in March, we are currently going through the audit process.

Accountant noted that the Accounts Receivable number from 2021 would be updated when the 2021 Audit was complete to reflect that value.

Commissioner Rogel questioned the amounts of the personnel expenses and a concern that we have spent a significant percentage of that expense this early in the budget year. Accountant Greene noted that a onetime shift of expenses to the Program Manager expense from the Office Administrator. Commissioner Rumsey noted that this shift has not been accounted for in the budget tracker, and will be reporting tracking information absent of this expense shift.

Budget Tracker – G. Rumsey

Commissioner Rumsey reported that the budget tracker confirms the Accountants' report minus the shift in personnel expense. This will be corrected and reflected on the next budget tracker report.

SSA 61 Audit – D. Burnham

SSA #61 Audit is almost complete. Finalizing submission of documents to auditor and looking to get a draft within the next week. Projection of a draft document to be delivered by 5/5/2022

SSA 61 Program Manager – R. Sawyer

Late Tax Assessment, TIF Disbursements - Alerted commissioners that tax receipts would be delayed due to Cook County Assessor sending out tax bills late. Looking into Cook County Treasurer's report saying we were distributed TIF funds of \$159,646.46 in 1/14/21, but the City of Chicago claims we were not due those funds.

Hyde Park Farmer's Market – Planning for the market is on track and will open on Sunday, June 6th, 10am.

Contract Renewal – Cleanslate Contract has been renewed. Power washing respondents were asked to split work into Spring and Autumn cleaning pricing to help with pending budget concerns.

Walking the Footprint – Getting a better assessment on assets (light poles, garbage cans, etc.) we have responsibility over. Assessing each parts of the SSA areas (53rd, 55th streets, etc.) to address their unique needs.

Program Committee meeting - Noted the next date of the next committee meeting, 5/3/2022 @ 10:00am and invited all to attend

Chairman's Updates

Deferred to Commissioner Williams to report on the state of retail. University of Chicago properties. State of retail is not struggling, some have reported their best revenue periods.

Welcomed 8 new businesses in 2021, 1 in 2022. Most have returned to pre-pandemic levels. Soft goods and fast foods have returned, full service/in dining restaurants have not returned, there are few exceptions. Many concerns are staffing shortages, existing pandemic restrictions.

Chairperson Guttman on Mac Properties – Doing well, much fewer concerns from vendors, retailers.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Rumsey promoted the Hyde Park Garden Fair, which returns Friday and Saturday, May 13 – 14, 2022 in the courtyard of the Hyde Park Shopping Center.

Commissioner Newsome spoke on upgrades to the Kimbark Plaza Shopping Center.

The next meeting will be May 24th 2022 @ 11:00am via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned 11:37am.

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Secretary, SSA 61