

**Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Meeting**

**Minutes, January 18, 2017
Chicago Innovation Exchange
1462 E 53rd Street, Chicago, IL**

Present: Greg Guttman, Allison Hartman, James Hennessy (arrived 11:38), Jacqueline Jackson, Michael McGarry, Charles Newsome, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Brian Tijan (left 12:02).

Absent: Jim Hanson,

Also Present: Eric Reaves, Wendy Williams, Isaac Manning (accountant), Jared Kelly (CEI Media Group)

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by Chair McGarry, who welcomed the public and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes. Minutes for the December 7, 2016, meeting were approved with two corrections regarding attendance at the meeting. Kimberly Webb from 5th Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston's office was also in attendance; and the correct spelling of Ms. Barrett's name (4th Ward) is "Keiana."

Financial Report. Director Reaves reviewed each line item in the 2017 budget approved in July by City Council. Changes may be made as needed throughout the year. Several categories merit special attention.

- **Farmers Market.** We did not break even on that category in 2016; but the Farmers Market now has its own budget. As a consequence, the SSA contribution has been decreased from \$9000 in 2016 to \$5000 in 2016. On December 31, 2016, control of Farmers Market funds was transferred from the SECC to the SSA, into a separate checking account. Eventually expenses and revenues will match. Currently income appears in the SECC budget and expenses in the SSA budget.
- **Facade Program.** The program is still under development. One building has been targeted. Discussion will be reopened with the building owner, as discussion was begun a year ago but had to be deferred until the 2017 budget.
- **Flower Basket Contract.** After Bright View purchased Brickman, with whom we contracted for the flower baskets, service did not meet the terms of the contract. Director Reaves will work out some form of compensation from Bright View, and we will rebid the contract.
- **Garbage Remediation.** Though CleanSlate does a good job and gave us a reduction in cost in 2016, expenses for garbage remediation are still quite high. Significantly more garbage was collected in 2016 because there is more traffic in the SSA District. Director Reaves will see what kind of cost adjustments might be possible.

- **Nichols Park.** The \$5000 allotted for beautification of the Nichols Park apron is insufficient for the amount of work needed. Options may include a fundraiser, accumulating funds over several years, and partnering with local business in that area.

Updates.

Audit. The completed year-end financial report will be ready for the February meeting, and the audit will begin March 1. Going forward, accountant Isaac Manning will attend all SSA meetings.

2017 Meeting Schedule. The following meeting schedule was proposed:

- January 18, 11:00 a.m., Polsky
- February 15, 7:00 p.m., Hyatt
- April 19, 11:00 a.m., Polsky
- June 21, 11:00 a.m., Polsky
- July 19, 11:00 a.m., Polsky
- September 20, 7:00 p.m., Hyatt
- October 18, 11:00 a.m., Polsky
- December 6, 11:00 a.m., Polsky

Commissioner Tijan moved that we approve this meeting schedule; Commissioner Newsome seconded; and the vote was unanimous.

Hyde Park Service Business Safari. Jared Kelly of CEI Media Group presented ideas for consideration by the Commissioners on how to create visibility for service businesses within the SSA District and drive customers to them. An initial survey of how many service businesses are operating in the District yielded a count of over 500, prompting discussion that more information is needed about these businesses before designing a marketing program for them.

Announcements. Chair McGarry opened the floor for announcements and public comment.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The next meeting will be February 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Hyde Park, 5225 S. Harper.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary J. Rogel, Secretary, SSA 61