

Special Service Area #61
SSA #61 Program Committee Minutes
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 10:00am – 11:00am
SECC Office Conference Room
1511 East 53rd Street, 2nd Fl.

Present: Anthony Beach, Mary Rogel, Nancy Stanek and George Rumsey.

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), Roger Huff

Call to Order: Chairperson Rogel called the Program Committee meeting of SSA #61 to order at 10:04am with a quorum present/not present.

Approval of Minutes (June 2023 and July 2023)

Minutes were approved as amended.

Next Program Committee meetings for 2023

Program committee co-chairs Beach and Rogel approved a bi-monthly schedule to adjust Program Committee meetings to September 2023 and November 2023

53rd and Lake Park Metra Mural project and RFP:

Comments on the RFP as follows:

Selection committee should include SSA commissioners, SECC and Chicago Public Arts Group. G. Rumsey did not feel SECC should be part of the jury panel. R. Sawyer stated that SECC should be involved because the SSA is part of the SECC region coverage and has an interest as well.

- Remove the graphics from the RFP that suggest what the final art rendering should look like. Let the artist design recommendations for their concepts.
- Include the total square footage for the wall.
- Anthos needs to be consulted and the final design should blend in with the adjacent wall Anthos uses as advertising.
- (R. Huff) – Are there permits or other requirements to block off street while installing art?

SSA #61 - 5 Project Priorities

- 1) 53rd and 55th Street viaducts – Assessment complete. Timeline to be developed.
- 2) Landscaping the center median on Lake Park Avenue - Complete

3) Landscaping at Nichols Park (the 53rd Street facing side within the SSA footprint)
– Nichols Park Advisory Council is now a 501c3 organization and is the leading nonprofit entity over Nichols Park. NPAC has recently formed a subcommittee and is determining how to handle landscaping the lilacs.

4) Activate the west end of 53rd St. – Finish Initial assessment and send to C.
Newsome this week

5) Activate 55th St. from Lake Park to S. Hyde Park Blvd. – Finish Initial assessment to send to J. Nurss this week

Questions and Comments:

R. Huff

“White Board” working document is excellent idea to visually display projects

Is there an inventory of SSA contracts?

Concerned there isn't a plan to spend down 2023 budget.

R. Sawyer comments that a spend down plan had been developed, had been presented in a May 2024 meeting and become outdated. Stated a new updated plan will be developed and presented in August 2023 Finance Committee Meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:07am.

Respectfully submitted,
Roderick Sawyer, SSA 61