

Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, July 25, 2023 11am – 12pm
Hyde Park Bank Conference Board Room
1525 East 53rd Street

Present: Charles Newsome, James Nurss, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Gregory Guttman, and Nancy Stanek

Absent: Angie Marks, Anthony Beach and Shaka Mitchell

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Roger Huff (Community), and Mike McGarry (SECC)

Call to Order: Chairman Guttman called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:07am with a quorum present.

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

Question from R. Huff/Community: What are the current financial obligations of the SSA, the non-committed funds within the budget, and what is the spending plan to ensure that all funds are spent prior to the end of the SSA sunset term?

A revised plan will be submitted to the SSA Finance Committee next month to answer the questions asked.

G. Guttman: Rework spending plan to current status. Rework five SSA priorities for 2023-to-30-60-90-day paydown schedule

Reading/Approval of the Minutes (approved or any corrections):

June 2023 minutes were approved as presented with the modification to list Commissioner G. Guttman as not present.

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

Financials were accepted as circulated and presented. M. Rogel questioned why 2023 disbursements were late. G. Rumsey explained that ongoing discussions between the tax collection bodies within Cook County government led to a late resolution in taxing, and late collections will continue to reverberate throughout tax collections, pushing them out later.

SSA #61 Approval of SSA services and Service Provider for 2024

Two separate motions were introduced for the following:

Motion 1: SSA Commissioners to reappoint the SECC as the SSA service provider for the 2024 fiscal year. Motioned by G. Rumsey, 2nd by M. Rogel.

Motion 2: SECC as service provider continues to provide the services as listed in Workplan 2024 listed in categories 1 through 5. Motioned by M. Rogel, 2nd by C. Newsome

A short discussion took place regarding that the above motions were implicit in the vote for the 2024 Wokrplan, but City of Chicago protocol would take precedence for an expiring SSA making the decision for a reconstituted SSA. A roll call vote was held for both motions. The vote tallies are listed in the table below:

Commissioner	Present	SSA 2024 Services	SSA 2024 Provider
Beach	No		
Guttman	Yes	X	X
Marks	No		
Mitchell	Yes	X	X
Newsome	Yes	X	X
Nurss	Yes	X	X
Rogel	Yes	X	X
Rumsey	Yes	X	X
Stanek	Yes	X	X

“X” indicates that the vote was in the affirmative for the motions passed.

SSA Programs Update – R. Sawyer

Mural project on 53rd and Lake Park/Anthos – An RFP for a mural on the Metra wall located near 53rd and Lake Park Ave. was presented and discussed. There were several questions regarding the RFP, such as selection criteria, artist selection and partnering with local art communities. It was decided to move this discussion and any decisions to the next Program Committee.

Autumn Sidewalk Power Washing contract consideration – The second power washing of the sidewalks was to resume this week but pushed back due to a personal issue of the owner. We will have a third power wash, and option for a viaduct-only wash to consider for the Autumn months.

Hyde Park Farmer’s Market – R. Sawyer reviewed the markets’ focus on theme weeks for specific promotions. He invited all commissioners to visit the market, as

the next one will feature a “Holiday In July” theme. He spoke of the two holiday market days later this year. He passed out blocks of Market cards to all commissioners in attendance and asked all commissioners to promote the market by passing out the cards and visiting the Farmer’s Market. Sawyer noted that the market is averaging 21 vendors, has expanded its activities by highlighting its children’s section, and that over 300 visitors attend the market each week.

Request to move next commissioners meeting to Tuesday, 8/29 at 11am)

R. Sawyer requested that August’s full committee meeting be moved back one week to accommodate a vacation schedule. E. Thompson (Hyde Park Bank, host of SSA committee meetings) said the Bank Conference room would be available to accommodate this request. The move was approved unanimously by commissioners present.

Committee Meetings, Frequency Alteration Discussions/OMA

R. Sawyer discussed reducing the frequency of sub committee meetings as they fell under the Open Meetings Act and required the administration of a full committee meeting. He met with each committee earlier and each committee will discuss reducing the frequency of meetings during their meetings in August.

Commissioner Applications – R. Sawyer

R. Sawyer stated that Commissioners applications should be turned in now and were due in the May/June timeframe.

Chairman Update – Guttman

Chairman Guttman reiterated the 5 priorities the commissioners feel that SSA staff should be focusing on: (1). 53rd and 55th Street Viaducts, (2). Lake Park Median Landscaping, (3). Nichols Park Landscaping, (4). 53rd Street vitalization from Woodlawn to Kimbark, and 53rd from Lake Park to Hyde Park Blvd, and (5). 55th Street from Lake Park Av. To Hyde Park Blvd.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

None

The next meeting is scheduled for August 29th at 11:00am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roderick Sawyer, SSA 61