

Special Service Area #61
SSA #61 Program Committee Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 10:00am-11:00am via Zoom

Present: Co-chairs Mary Rogel and Anthony Beach

Other Commissioners Present: Charles Newsome, George Rumsey, and Gregory Guttman

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Joyce Feuer, Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), Joyce Feuer (Guest), Roger Huff (Guest), Gary Ossewaarde (Guest), Phil Moy (Guest), Louise McCurry (Guest), Bill (Guest), Carol Moy (Guest), Jane Moy (Guest)

Meeting Call to Order:

A quorum being present, Chairperson Rogel called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:05am. Pursuant to the applicable law and her 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 caused by COVID-19, this meeting was conducted by videoconference. The meeting was recorded and is available at <http://www.downtownhydeparkchicago.com/> and on YouTube.

Current Programs: R. Sawyer presented the status on the reconstitution of the SSA and suggested extension of contracts with vendors (Cleanslate, power washing, landscaping) for the year to present at the general meeting. The full commission must approve of spending threshold being crossed with renewal of contracts.

2023 SSA Programs - Progress Report: R. Sawyer presented the status on the following items: (1) Viaducts initiative – R. Sawyer met yesterday (3/6/23) with Chicago Public Arts Group (CPAG) to discuss and evaluate viaducts. Discussed involvement of Hyde Park Art Center (HPAC). (2) Lake Park Landscaping – Revised request submitted by Clarence Davids. Will be prepared to be submitted. Medians and weeding extending from 52nd to 55th part of the median. Discussion of seasonal plants and 3-season/4-season planting. (3) Nichols Park – Advisory meeting on Thursday at which a Parks person will discuss lilacs. (4) West 53rd Street (Woodlawn to Kenwood) – C. Newsome and R. Sawyer met to discuss Kimbark Plaza aesthetics (parking lot, streetscape, landscaping). Will meet again to discuss programming and landscaping ideas. Discussion of traffic safety at Kenwood. Discussed East 53rd St – M. Rogel named as advocate of the viaduct. (5) 55th Street East (Lake Park to Hyde Park Blvd) – Viaduct cleanliness was discussed. Asked power washing company to price out a separate cleaning program to specifically clean the viaducts.

Discussion of an education program to inform residents about feeding pigeons.
Discussed trash receptacles. Importance of maintenance plans for services discussed.

Future Meeting Times: Meetings may no longer be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday mornings. This change will need to be discussed with the commissioners.

Questions and Comments from Guests:

L. McCurry - Concern about 55th Street underpass (poorly lit). East side of the underpass is a space that is dimly lit and gathers trash, graffiti on the signs. North side of sidewalk under the underpass filled with ice and snow and is a slipping hazard.

D. Burnham - SECC launched 24th year of Neighborhood Enhancement Grant, now named Shirley J. Newsome Beautification Program.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Sawyer, SSA 61