

**Special Service Area #61  
SSA Program Committee  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023  
Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Co-chairs Mary Rogel and Anthony Beach

**Additional Commissioners Present:** George Rumsey, Greg Guttman, Charles Newsome and James Nurss

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

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Rogel called the meeting to order. 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 cause by COVID-19, this meeting was conducted by videoconference. The meeting was recorded and is available at <https://downtownhydeparkchicago.com> and on YouTube.

**Vote on Contract Extensions for Litter Abatement, Sidewalk Power Washing, and Light Pole Flower Planters** — R. Sawyer

The vote for each contract extension passed unanimously.

**3. 2023 SSA Initiatives - Progress Report** — R. Sawyer

Mr. Sawyer has several meetings scheduled with various persons of interest including James Nurss and Clarence Davids.

The commissioners agreed almost unanimously of the priority order of the projects.

Discussing problem of pigeons in viaducts.

Commissioner Rogel questioned whether the construction work at Harper Court would impact work on the viaducts. Mr. Sawyer thought it would not.

**4. Questions and Comments**

Roger Huff – Expressed frustrated that the Zoom link used was not the program committee link but rather the commissioners meeting link. Mr. Sawyer apologized for that mistake. Mr. Huff also recommended a paper be distributed with repeating links for each committee so that they are all in one place.

Mr. Huff also requested the poll results be shared. The commissioners' priority was as follows: Viaducts, Lake Park Avenue Landscaping, Kimbark Plaza/West 53<sup>rd</sup> St, Nichols Park, and East of Viaducts 53<sup>rd</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> St.

Mr. Huff also requested information on what is happening with the median on Lake Park. Commissioner Rogel clarified that they were still researching and had not begun taking action. Commissioner Rumsey stated that they were seeking an updated quote.

Mr. Huff asked about what was planned for the West End. Mr. Newsome said the plans surround landscaping the area. He asked what was planned for Nichols Park. Mr. Sawyer said they were planning landscaping, particularly regarding trimming the lilacs in the front. He then questioned what was planned for 55<sup>th</sup> St. East. Mr. Sawyer said he needed to meet with Commissioner Nurss.

Commissioner Guttman argued that there is a sense of urgency in vocabulary from the committee but that this was not being backed up by action. Commissioner Guttman was also hesitant to pursue the updated Clarence Davids contract because of how expensive it was and wanted to seek out other bids.

It is agreed that at the following meeting, the Clarence Davids bid will be presented and the commissioners will vote on whether to accept it.

## **5. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephanie Horst, SECC Intern