



**Special Service Area #61**  
**SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2024**  
**Polsky Exchange North – Jackson Park Room**

**Present:** L. Brown, S. Karim, A. Marks, C. Newsome, G. Robnett, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey, N. Stanek

**Absent:** J. Nurss, E. Thompson

**Also Present:** Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), M. Richardson (SECC - Intern), Isaac Greene (Accountant), Mike McGarry (SECC), Wendy Williams (Guest), Peter Cassel (Guest). Cecilia Butler (WPAC), Eric Nance (Guest), Erica Johnson (Guest)

A quorum being present, Chairman Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:05am.

**Reading/Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the May 29, 2024, meeting was tabled until the next scheduled meeting as they were not received in a timely manner.

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

C. Butler – Dr. Burroughs panels to be replaced and transported to a new location in Washington Park, which has the support of the commissioners as well as the board of the DuSable Museum.

P. Cassel – Mac Properties has five buildings in the reconstituted SSA, and they are asking this board to forgo a property increase due to the impact on the smaller businesses, the significant vacancies in the area. This appears to be a one-year issue with the proposed SSA revenue expected to more than double by 2026.



Eric Nance – As a local small business, Lighthouse Grill, is not in support of a tax increase. Small businesses such as theirs are still recovering from the financial effects of the pandemic.

Erica Johnson – View 53/Pickney Real Estate currently has a 75% occupancy rate. With the proposed increase, they would have no other choice but to increase the rental rate and could potentially lose existing renters.

**Bylaws Discussion/Adoption – Chair Rumsey and R. Sawyer**

Tabled until July meeting to give body time for review.

**SSA Financials – R. Sawyer/D. Burnham/G. Rumsey/I. Greene**

Financials were accepted as circulated and presented. Commissioner Karim asked for clarification of budget line items 2.08 and 6.02.

A motion to defer the vote for the 2025 budget was moved and seconded by Commissioners Marks and Robnett, respectively. Motion carried unanimously.

Contracts for Cleanslate and CEI Media Group were accepted with general consensus.

2023 audit is ongoing and may be completed by the next meeting date.

**Project Updates – R. Sawyer**

General updates were provided for the work within the footprint. All were encouraged to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> on 53<sup>rd</sup> parade and the weekly farmer's market.

**Chairman Updates – G. Rumsey**

Based on the questions/comments from attendees, suggests a budget workshop for anyone who wants to attend. A clear understanding of the SSA budget would help in knowing how and where the money is being spent.

**Questions and Comments from Commissioners**

DOWNTOWN  
HYDE  
PARK

CHICAGO



None

The next meeting will be July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11am

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Raymonde Vance, SECC