



**Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Polsky Exchange North – Jackson Park Room**

Present: C. Newsome, G. Robnett, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey

Absent(excused): N. Stanek

Absent: L. Brown, S. Karim, A. Marks, J. Nurss and E. Thompson

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

A quorum not being present, Chair Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:14am.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the August 27th meeting were tabled until a quorum was present or the next scheduled meeting, whichever occurred first.

Questions and Comments from Guests:

Diane Burnham, SECC shared information regarding the Southside Symposium on October 5th and encouraged everyone to share the information and attend.

SSA Financials – R. Sawyer, Program Manager

- August financials were accepted as circulated and presented. Questions were raised in relation to categories 1.05, 1.07 and 1.09 as to which funds may go over to the carryover; what is the spenddown plan and what line items will be carried over?
- For category 5-Safety Programs, will these funds be used and is SSA supporting the annual October event and at what level? Yes, SSA will be supporting the event with the \$5k commitment. Another inquiry was if the amount is over \$5k, does that require a vote.
- Audit update – Review and vote were tabled until a quorum was present



Program Committee Report – Commissioner Rogel, Chair

- **Viaduct Project:**

Additional artwork was submitted/reviewed. The committee provided feedback and is awaiting a response. Chair Rumsey questioned why the program committee received so few projects to review when the agency received so many submissions. The proposed timeline for completion is Fall 2024.

- **Lake Park Mural:**

A form provided by Metra was completed following the project submission from the committee. The completion timeline is Fall 2024.

SSA Program Manager Report – R. Sawyer

- The 2024 Hyde Park Farmers Market Summer season closes on September 29th. Encouraged all to attend the close-out festivities. Reminded all the 2024 Winter Markets on Saturdays in November and December.
- International Downtown Association (IDA) Convention – This was an opportunity to interact with their counterparts. He had an opportunity to talk with the international delegation that attended the convention in Chicago and visited Hyde Park who thought the city and neighborhoods were lovely. Other cities are experiencing the same level, if not more, vacancies in their commercial/downtown areas as well. Migrant issues are like what Chicago is seeing, however from a different racial demographic. To conclude, this is not so much a police problem as it is an organized activity where individuals are dropped off/picked up in specific business locations/areas. This is a BACP issue. Similar issues, but how can they be handled.
- Safety and traffic – Due to the increase in foot and motorized vehicle traffic within the business corridor, suggests more signage for safety and education of residents and businesses alike.

Chairman Updates – G. Rumsey

Chair Rumsey asked if anyone present was aware of the Comcast signage in Nichols Park and what it is there for. Rod said he would inquire and report back.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners



None

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01pm

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, SECC