



**Special Service Area #61 – Hyde Park**  
**SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes Tuesday, May 27, 2025**  
Polsky Exchange North — Jackson Park Room

**Present:** S. Karim, A. Marks, C. Newsome, J. Nurss, G. Robinette, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey

**Absent:** L. Brown, E. Thompson

**Also Present:** Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), Dave White (Nichols Park), Sunetra Reddy, Jane Moy, Carol Moy

A quorum being present, Chair Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:03 am.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes for the April 2025 meeting were accepted as circulated.

**Questions and Comments from Guests.** Dave White updated the Commission on the 4th on 53rd Parade and the George Franklin Concert Series in Nichols Park. Sunetra Reddy addressed the Commissioners with a request for a high-end Indian restaurant, which she thought would do very well in the neighborhood.

**Financials.** Program Manager Sawyer presented the current Profit/Loss summary and the monthly budget tracker through April. Commissioner Newsome inquired about the impact of late assessments on the budget.

**Program Committee Report.** Commissioner Rogel, chair of the Program Committee, thanked Rod Sawyer and Diane Burnham for the excellent unveiling of the new viaduct art project on May 22. She noted the committee would start the process of identifying projects for the coming fiscal years, such as improved lighting in the viaducts. Commissioners are encouraged to send their ideas to the committee or attend the next meeting.

**Audit Update.** Program Manager Sawyer explained that the City had been forced to change the accounting period used by SSAs, so that it now included January and February, which greatly complicated the audit. However, the audit has been completed and there were no findings. The process with the new auditor was very well handled. A quorum being present, the Commission voted to approve the final version of the audit with a roll call vote:

Karim	Yes
Marks	Yes

Newsome	Yes
Nurss	Yes
Robinette	Yes
Rogel	Yes

**2026 Workplan Discussion.** Program Manager Sawyer next presented his proposed workplan for Fiscal Year 2026. The preliminary estimate is that SSA 61 will have a 2025 levy of \$562,8877 — almost double the levy of 2024, which was \$279,919. This will keep the SSA 61 tax rate at 0.6518% (lower than the current rate of 0.6541%). Since the increase in revenue is greater than 5%, the Commission will be required to hold a public community meeting to explain why the amount increased (i.e., the end of the 53rd Street TIF).

Manager Sawyer highlighted the workplan changes that are greater than 25%. These changes were centered around landscaping, rodent abatement, and master planning for the district.

The Commissioners voted to approve this preliminary budget for submission to the City on a roll call vote:

Karim	Yes
Marks	Yes
Newsome	Yes
Nurss	Yes
Robinette	Yes
Rogel	Yes

**Chair Updates.** Chair Rumsey informed the Commission that Commissioner Marks had offered to arrange a tour for the Commissioners, featuring the new tower opening in Harper Court. Chair Rumsey again thanked the SECC and the various parties for the unveiling of the new art in the viaducts and the reception in honor of the artists.

There will not be a Commission meeting in June. The next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15, at 11:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
George W. Rumsey, Chair