



**Special Service Area #61 – Hyde Park**  
**SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes Tuesday, July 15, 2025**  
Polsky Exchange North — Jackson Park Room

**Present:** C. Casey\*, S. Karim, A. Marks, J. Nurss, G. Robnett, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey

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

**Also Present:** Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC Executive Director), Peter Cassel (MAC Properties), and Kenneth Newman

A quorum being present, Chair Rumsey called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:03 am. The Commission welcomed new commissioner Christy Casey, who is the Area Supervisor for Tailor Made Property Services and the manager of the DARE (Disabled Adults Residential Enterprise) Building on 55th Street.

**Approval of the Minutes.** The minutes for the May 2025 meeting were accepted as corrected.

**Questions and Comments from Guests.** Peter Cassel thanked the commissioners for their hard work and accomplishments and congratulated the Commission for the new budget workplan. Kenneth Newman expressed concern about the state of Nichols Park (including problems with trash pickup), the need for additional bike racks on 53rd and 55th Streets, and the need for a crosswalk for students at Murray School.

**Financials.** Program Manager Sawyer presented the current Profit/Loss summary and the monthly budget tracker through May. Commissioner Karim asked for clarification on the impact of the timeliness of tax assessments and how late tax deadlines would impact the SSA's spending plan in the latter half of the year. Manager Sawyer explained that the SSA experiences this with some regularity, and it plans ahead to ensure sufficient funds to complete the work of the commission by year's end.

**Program Committee Report.** Commissioner Rogel, chair of the Program Committee, reported that the committee had started the process of previewing possible projects for the upcoming year, including a rodent abatement program. RFPs are also being reviewed and updated in preparation for their distribution this fall. Commissioners and guests are invited to attend the virtual meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, at 10:00 (notify Manager Sawyer to receive the Zoom link).

**2026 Workplan Discussion.** Program Manager Sawyer reviewed the final draft of the FY26 workplan. He reviewed areas where minor changes had been made, and Chair Rumsey pointed

out that the administrative portion of the budget was only 11%, well below prior years. A quorum being present, the chair then called for a roll call vote on approval:

*Casey	Yes
Karim	Yes
Marks	Yes
Nurss	Yes
Robnett	Yes
Rogel	Yes

**2026 Service Provider Discussion.** After a brief discussion of the history of the relationship between the SECC and the SSA 61, the Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the South East Chicago Commission as the Service Provider for Special Service Area #61 and the services provided for 2026:

*Casey	Yes
Karim	Yes
Marks	Yes
Nurss	Yes
Robnett	Yes
Rogel	Yes

**Program Manager Remarks.** Manager Sawyer thanked everyone for participating in the 4th on 53rd parade. Several commissioners rode on floats or marched in the parade. Despite the rain, it was well attended and actually provided a chance to review most of the SSA's footprint!

**Chair Updates.** Chair Rumsey thanked the SECC for their dedication and appreciated riding on the SECC/SSA float in the parade. In addition, he confirmed with Commissioner Marks that a tour of the new tower in Harper Court is being arranged. He will followup quickly with commissioners to select a date and time.

There will not be a Commission meeting in August. The next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, at 11:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

*\*Commissioner Casey cast provisional votes because her appointment at the time was unknown. Had she been appointed on or prior to 7/15/25, her appointment would have changed what constituted a quorum of the body and without it, a quorum would not have been achieved without her vote. Because her actual appointment took place on 7/16/25, Commissioner Casey's vote does not count towards a quorum or any motion. -- RS 23Sep25*

Respectfully submitted,  
George W. Rumsey, Chair