



Special Service Area #61
SSA Board of Commissioners Minutes
Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Polsky Exchange North – Jackson Park Room

Present: C. Casey, S. Karim, C. Newsome, J. Nurss, M. Rogel, G. Rumsey.

Absent: A. Marks (excused)

Also Present: Rod Sawyer (SSA Program Manager), Diane Burnham (SECC), CJ Mimee (pending commissioner), Veronica Markham (pending commissioner), Carol Moy, Jane Moy, Kaylen Chase, Seyi KuKu, Eric Valdez (pending commissioner)

Chair Newsome called the meeting of SSA #61 to order at 11:07am with a quorum being present.

Reading/Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the April 28th meeting were approved with the necessary corrections.

Questions and Comments from Guests: *(limited to 3 minutes due to length of agenda)*

Guests present introduced themselves.

SSA Financials – Chair Newsome, R. Sawyer, Program Manager

The Finance Committee is still looking for a Chair.

- April 2026 P&L Report Summary – Commissioner Rogel noted the FY column heading needed correction. PM stated the accountant would be attending meetings going forward to present the financials. There were two outstanding ‘Due to’ expenses for 2022 and 2024. The 2022 amount was written off by the Service Provider due to a calculation error and amounts not aligning correctly.
- Budget Tracker – The bank account amount exceeds what is reported on budget tracker. Further explanation will be provided in the 2027 Workplan Budget. Categories 6 and 7 typically increase this time of year. Commissioner Rumsey inquired as to when the Master Plan spending will occur. Rod is waiting to hear from the City and the RFP will be submitted and make sure all deliverables are accounted for (all ducks in a row). Commissioner Rogel asked for clarification as to whether the Annual Report was included in this year’s budget or last year.



Commissioner Karim questioned when we will see the remaining tax disbursement. Rod shared that SSA61 received 23% but typically receives 55% which resulted in a shortfall of \$190k.

Program Committee Report – Commissioner Rogel, Chair

Request for Proposals (RFP's)– Artist Services and Landscape Services:

- **RFP** – Met with two companies regarding their proposals. Clarence Davids was selected. Each company presented proposals, however Clarence Davids did a full proposal; the other company only responded to the work they would be able to complete. Two other companies declined to respond to the bid. Pruning will be done by the city. Commissioner Rumsey thought the proposal looked good and suggested looking into expanding the plantings. Commissioner Rogel noted the plantings have been reduced from 17 to 15 plantings. The motion was moved and properly seconded by Commissioners Rogel and Karim respectfully. The contract was unanimously approved.
- **Project Proposals** – Looking for project proposals. Lighting of the trees within the footprint was one suggestion.
- **Additional Information** – The City would like for SSA61 to tell them what we would like them to do. Focus needs to be on DTHP. What can be done to attract more visitors. What marketing is the SSA considering. Commissioner Rumsey suggested more signage at the Metra stations to drive foot traffic to the area. Per Seyi, the HPCC is promoting Discover Hyde Park for destinations and tourism. The community was surveyed and a report will be on the website before the end of the month.

2027 Workplan Discussion and Acceptance Vote

- 2027 Workplan – A roll call vote was taken by the Commissioners:
 - Casey – Yes
 - Karim – Yes
 - Newsome – Yes
 - Nurss – Yes
 - Rogel – Yes
 - Rumsey - Yes



City is using TIF funds to backfill disbursements. Commissioner Rumsey posed the question the carryover couldn't be spent for 2 years, is that the same? The response was yes. Commissioner Karim questioned if there were any fee waivers. After some discussion there was a motion to accept the workplan as presented by Commissioners Rogel and Rumsey. Motion carried.

2024 Annual Report – An updated version of the report will be uploaded to the website.

SSA Program Manager Report – R. Sawyer

- SECC Power Hour Series – Diane Burnham invited everyone to attend the series which is the lead to the SECC Symposium in October.
- Hyde Park Farmers Market – Ribbon cutting is at 11:30am. The time has changed for this year's market and will be 10am-3pm.
- 4th on 53rd – SSA 61 has a float for the parade and all are welcome to ride.
- Banners – Damaged banners have been replaced at a cost of upwards of \$175 per banner.

Questions and Comments from Commissioners

Food for thought - Commissioner Karim questioned if there was a cap on any projects and whether the cap can be used as a guide for the projects to be spread across multiple years.

Chairman Report/Updates – C. Newsome

Deferred until next meeting. The next Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th, at 11:00 am. The meeting was adjourned at 12:16pm

Respectfully submitted,
Raymonde Vance, Admin