

## Special Service Area 61, Hyde Park Commission

Minutes, June 25, 2014

**Present:** Anthony Fox, Greg Guttman, Allison Hartman, James Hanson, Jacqueline Jackson (appointment pending), Michael McGarry, Charles Newsome, Mary Rogel, George Rumsey, Donna Trainor

**Absent:** James Hennessy

**Also Present:** Eric Reeves and Wendy Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair McGarry. He welcomed members of the public who attended and explained how to use the index cards provided for questions.

Minutes for May 28 were accepted as circulated.

**2014 Farmers Market.** Director Eric Reeves explained that the Southeast Chicago Commission (SECC) is responsible for this year's Farmers Market, which has already been set up and is located outside the SSA footprint. Chair McGarry thanked the SECC for keeping it running and suggested that the SSA explore options for the 2015 Market.

**Gary Comer Center Garden Program.** Director Reeves presented the garden program as an idea for next year. This is a program that gets grants and hires high school students to plan, plant, maintain, harvest, and sell herbs and flowers that they grow in gardens at various sites, including Shedd Aquarium. Reeves will get more information.

**Bank Line of Credit/Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).** Director Reeves submitted an RFP from the SECC to ten banks for a loan to enable the SSA to begin its work prior to receiving tax monies. The only bank to respond was the Hyde Park Bank, a Wintrust Community Bank. Because of Chair McGarry's position as Market President of Hyde Park Bank and his very small fraction of ownership of Wintrust stock, he recused himself, turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Rumsey at 7:21 p.m. and left the room during the discussion of the loan and the MOU. For the record, someone else at Hyde Park Bank is handling the details of the loan, not Chair McGarry.

The SECC attorney has reviewed the loan documentation. After which the SECC Board requested a MOU with the SSA in order to memorize the responsibilities of the loan. The MOU clearly prohibits the commingling of funds of the SSA and the SECC. SECC will maintain a separate bank account for the SSA. Wendy Williams must approve all purchases over \$500; she will do so only with the approval of the SSA Commissioners. Purchases over \$5,000 must be approved by the Commissioners. James Poueymirou is SECC Board Treasurer and designee for the SSA account. The loan must be repaid within 30 days of receiving the funds from the tax levy.

Commissioner Newsome moved that the MOU be accepted; Commissioner Guttman seconded; vote of approval was unanimous. Chair McGarry was called back into the room at 7:33 p.m., and Vice Chair Rumsey relinquished the chair to him.

**Flower Baskets.** Contractor Brickman may have put up to ten too many baskets of flowers outside the SSA footprint and outside of the contractual agreement. The bill to the SSA for the baskets filled incorrectly will be adjusted accordingly, and nearby businesses will still have an option to pay for the baskets installed near them. Director Reeves will contact Brickman and report back at the July meeting.

**Commissioner Responsibilities.** Someone will come from the City to explain Commissioner responsibilities.

**4<sup>th</sup> on 53<sup>rd</sup> Parade Sponsorship.** The SSA has been asked to sponsor a banner for the parade. The \$650 cost is in the budget under Marketing and Advertising.

**Trolley Report.** Director Reeves is gathering information regarding a trolley route within the SSA footprint. Funds for this are included in the budget. An attempt will be made to test the concept by the Shop Local weekend this Fall.

**Cleanslate Update.** The contract with Cleanslate began on Monday, June 7; and they are doing what they are supposed to do. Commissioner Rumsey suggested that we speak with them when we see them to make them feel welcome and appreciated.

**Other Cleaning Update (SECC).** Power washing of the sidewalks on 53<sup>rd</sup> Street between Lake Park and Kimbark, including some of the arterial streets, is proceeding. All the gum is gone, but the oil it leaves cannot be removed. It has cost \$17,000 to do this work. All garbage cans will be painted. The two that are damaged will be replaced at a cost of \$800 each, and new lids will be purchased to replace the ones that have been damaged.

Tree maintenance will be done for overgrown roots. Root structure will be repaired, and grates around the trees will be painted. Most of the poles have been cleaned. SECC will see about replacing the tree stump; and problems with the handicap ramp cutaways at intersections have been reported to the City.

**2015 Budget Update.** The preliminary 2015 budget must be submitted to the City of Chicago by June 15<sup>th</sup>. It will mirror the 2014 budget within \$200. After the City has looked it over, Director Reeves will bring it back to the Commissioners for approval.

**Branding.** Ms. Williams and Director Reeves have met with two companies regarding branding for the SSA, and they will meet with two more this week. More information will be available for the next meeting.

**General Sharing.** Commissioner Hartman asked for information about City ordinances regarding bulletin boards on the street, as a way of sharing information within the neighborhood.

**Public Comments.** Clarification was requested and given regarding expenditures for flower baskets and general information about how expenditures are approved; and a comment was made that a trolley had been tried in the past and did not work very well.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m. The next meeting will be July 23 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hyatt.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary J. Rogel  
Secretary, SSA 61