

Special Service Area 61, Hyde Park Commission

Minutes, 26 March 2014

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

Absent: Gregory Guttman, , James Hennessy, Charles Newsome (appointment pending)

As this was the first regular meeting for the Commissioners of SSA 61, the two main items of business were to adopt by-laws and elect officers. This portion of the meeting was chaired by Eric Reaves, who is the representative to the SSA from our service provider, the South East Chicago Commission (SECC).

At present, nine Commissioners have been appointed; two others, Jacqueline Jackson and Charles Newsome, are expected to be appointed at a future meeting of the City Council. Until their appointments have been made, they may participate in discussions but may not vote.

By-laws: By-laws were discussed line by line and approved by unanimous vote.

Election of Officers: The following officers were nominated, seconded, and elected unanimously:

Chair:	Michael McGarry
Vice Chair:	George Rumsey
Secretary:	Mary Rogel
Treasurer:	Donna Trainor

At this point, Michael McGarry began chairing the meeting.

Committees: Discussion of whether to have committees and which committees are needed was tabled until after a budget has been adopted. A special meeting to discuss the budget will be scheduled prior to our next regularly scheduled meeting on April 23.

Meetings: The SSA Commissioners decided to meet monthly on the 4th Wednesday. Meetings will be held at the Hyatt Hotel Conference Room from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, except that at the end of each calendar quarter the meeting will be held from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm to accommodate working Commissioners and the public. A conference line will be made available so that Commissioners may attend by calling in. Commissioners who will be attending by conference call are asked to notify the Chair.

Minutes and Meeting Notices: SSA meeting schedules and minutes will be made available to the public as a PDF on the South East Chicago Commission (SECC) website under a dropdown menu for the SSA. In addition, the SSA will have its own website with a hyperlink to the

appropriate page on the SECC website, to make it easier for the public to find information about the SSA and its activities. In addition, SSA meeting dates will be forwarded to the *Hyde Park Herald*.

Commissioner Roster: Commissioner contact information has been e-mailed to Commissioners.

Projects/Flowers: The funding source for hanging baskets of flowers is no longer available. SECC requested and received a proposal from Brickman, which is the same company used by the City and other SSAs. Now is the time to negotiate a contract for the coming year's flowers, but the Commissioners tabled a decision until

1. the budget discussion has taken place,
2. the SECC can determine non-SSA funding for flowers for the part of 53rd Street that is not in the SSA, and
3. we have information about the need for flowers in parts of the SSA that do not currently have them but should.

George Rumsey and Allison Hartman will work with Eric Reaves to discuss options with Brickman that would lower the costs.

Strategic Planning: Along with the budget discussion, we need to have a discussion of what we want to accomplish as an SSA beyond bringing people to the 53rd/55th Street area. Businesses in the SSA district should be given the opportunity to respond to RFPs (Requests for Proposals). As a point of reference, the SECC sent out the RFP for hanging flower baskets to ten providers. Only two responded (Brickman and last year's provider). Commissioners raised the following question, which will be researched by SECC: What is the funding level (dollar amount) at which we are required to solicit bids?

Tax Anticipation Loan: While the SSA's budget is based on anticipated tax revenues, the SSA will not receive any official funding until late Fall, and the funding will not come as a lump sum. The Commission's options are to wait until tax funds are officially received, in which case it can do nothing until then, or to obtain a loan that will be repaid with tax funds when they are received. The Commission itself cannot obtain a loan, but its service provider, the SECC, can obtain a Tax Anticipation Loan. Most SSAs operate with Tax Anticipation Loans, which can be for any amount.

At the request of the Commission, Eric Reaves is writing an RFP for a Tax Anticipation Loan, to be reviewed by Treasurer Donna Trainor prior to being sent to all Banks in the SSA. The Commission will obtain a checking account, hand in hand with the Tax Anticipation Loan and a line of credit.

TIF: Although Aldermen Leslie Hairston and Will Burns approved giving the SSA the percentage of TIF funding that originates in the SSA, the City Council denied the request. The conversation is still on the table.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Rogel, Secretary