

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2013
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Attended:

Diane Walch
Dr. Andrea Stein

Absent:

Vince Saverino
Paul Karchestke
David Berger
Stephanie Spiegel

Staff:

Danielle Inendino
Cecilia Diaz - Recorder

Guest:

Sharin Nathan (Sweet Sensation Pastry) prospect commissioner
Ross Outten

Call to Order

Diane called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

November Minutes

November 21, 2013 minutes were only review.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow Report

Distributed to the board.

SSA #31 Budget 2014

The SSA #31 budget was finally approved. Diane mentioned we should plan the mailing to reach SSA PINs shortly before the March tax bills. This is letter the city is requiring to be sent to businesses and residents within SSA #31 to inform them of the 2014 budget stipulations and the carryover issue.

Ross announced he will not be able to pursue commissioner status. As the RCC Board President, he would like to stay connected by being a liaison officer between SSA #31 Commissioners and RCC Board. That way he can occasionally attend meetings and stay connected. This increases our need to identify and confirm at least 3 new commissioners as soon as possible.

Danielle provided update on the RCC's ED search. There were only a couple of solid candidates. She will keep everyone posted on the final selection. She is still receiving applications.

Diane asked about snow removal service from Cleanstreet. Andrea said she had an incident with the snow removal driver on her street. He was driving so fast that she had to jump out of his way. Diane asked that someone call to Contractor to let him know about the incident.

SSA#31 has paid the first two installments of Cleanstreet service per contract. Although we did not budget for payments this year, this will balance out by the end of January.

Diane mentioned the snow removal service for diagonal street parking in the RW Corridor not covered by the City. She said there will be a contract for 2013 for snow removal service at Ravenswood Ave west of the rail track between Berteau and Montrose. She is waiting for a quote from a vendor, but has started service already. In the future, she would like SSA to consider contracting to clear all the similar spaces within the Ravenswood corridor. This will require some assessment and research, but may be possible to incorporate for the winter 2014/15 season.

Danielle covered some of the progress with the RCC committee meetings. There are a few ideas to get initiative moving forward. There will be more information to follow.

Holiday Walk

Danielle updated everyone on the event. There was less traffic than expected due to the cold but Santa made his rounds during the event. Sharin said there were various groups of children in the earlier part of the event. The entertainment showed up later than the intended audience. She didn't have a lot of business but it drew in new faces. She thought the event was worthwhile.

New Business

Danielle has looked into Holiday Party venues like Art Tango. She said they are very expensive. Ross recommends using a catering service which should be reasonable just need place that's OK with that. Danielle will look into Lillstreet Studio, Mansfold Gallery and Diane will see what Hayes Properties may have vacant. The date is set for January 30, 2013 with a \$2,500 budget for about 75 people.

Old Business

Diane would like to send a revised proposal to the 47th Ward with aim to place trash cans in new locations where needed. We are hoping that the plan to fully service these new cans and the existing ones, relieving the Ward of the burden to service the existing ones weekly, will be accepted.

Bike rack installment will not occur until March subject to city council approval for public way use.

Future 2014 meeting are scheduled on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30pm and will be posted and published in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2013 at 2:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned by motion at 3:30p.m.