

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31  
Draft Minutes of Commissioners Meeting  
Thursday, March 21, 2013  
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Commissioners Attending:

Dr. Andrea Stein  
Diane Walch  
Paul Karchestke  
David Berger  
Ross Outten

Commissioners Absent:

Cleetus Freedman  
Vince Saverino  
Stephanie Spiegel  
Bill Helm

Staff:

Charles Daas

Guests:

Annie Coakley, Chicago DHED  
Ernie Cosentino, 47<sup>th</sup> Ward

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

February Minutes:

February 28th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted by motion of Ross Outten, 2<sup>nd</sup> of David Berger.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow

Cash flow report was reviewed by the commissioners. No Budget Variance report was submitted.

2013 SSA Budget

An amended budget, creating two separate budgets, one covering Jan-August, another for Sept – Dec was reviewed and approved by motion of Ross Outten, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrea Stein. This was required by the City due to conditions placed on the contract by our Alderman. The budget was submitted to Annie Coakley. The SSA Budget and contract is intended to run from March through August 2013.

Trash Can Placement & Service

Information from Victor Stanley (based in Maryland) was distributed and reviewed. Cans, at \$848 each, are metal but were not available for the kind of branding offered by Chicago-based Accurate Perforating. All in attendance preferred the cans manufactured by Accurate Perforating, which are rubberized metal and will better withstand Chicago's harsh weather conditions. Charlie mentioned that

both the Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber and the North Center Chamber are interested in working with us to keep costs down in emptying public cans, purchasing cans and creating a cohesive streetscape. Alderman Pawar has indicated a desire for SSA #31 to coordinate with Eric Norton of Streets & Sanitation, as well as our neighbor organizations, to implement this project.

#### 2013 Meeting Schedule

We have agreed to meet at 1:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday as follows: NOT 2PM with the following dates: February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, August 15, October 17, November 21 and December 19.

#### Old Business:

We discussed the snow plow budget. Our contract with Tovar is now complete. Commissioners raised concerns about the costs of the annual snow removal budget due to the light snowfall during the winter. Diane Walch also added that it would be useful for Tovar (or another vendor) to add ice removal and to spread salt on the sidewalks. For next season, we intend to get bids from a number of other vendors and to request per occurrence quotes as well.

#### New Business:

We reviewed the various bike lock designs submitted by Beyond Design. Materials used are reclaimed wood and metal. Among the designs are a modified u lock, a sundial, and a letter that we felt could be shaped into an R to represent Ravenswood. We also reviewed the concept of historic plaques installed on the bike locks that would pertain to the neighborhood's history. We are eager to see additional ideas of actual functioning designs and the costs involved.

#### Popup Storefront

There was a discussion about pop-up storefront events and a summary was distributed to the commissioners. Charlie noted that the pop-up concept was a key element of our retail strategy to begin to address the chronic commercial vacancy along Ravenswood's commercial thoroughfares, especially Lawrence Avenue and Clark Street. The idea behind the pop-up is to generate activity at a vacant storefront. Usually, the business or installation is temporary (30-90 days) and we have begun discussions with local businesses that have expressed interest, including Urban Accents, Ork Posters, and others.

David suggested that the issues on Clark Street were a bit more complicated due to the fact that the street is filled with wholesalers and it's difficult for traditional retailers or restaurants to get a toehold on the street. Andrea noted that the Clark Street wholesalers have a strong weekend business and that the street has no relationship to its neighboring residential area as the customers seem to travel great distances to shop on this street. The group set a goal of gathering a list of locations before our April meeting with the possibility of holding our first event as soon as May. Ernie Cosentino suggested reaching out to Lisa Wagner at Business Partners – Chamber for Uptown to help to coordinate anything on Clark Street. Ernie also suggested that Andersonville would be a resource, such as the owners of the Andersonville Galleria and the Landmark of Andersonville. Annie Coakley noted the need for proper licensing.

Recorder: Diane Walch