

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, May 23, 2013
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Attending:

Diane Walch
Dr. Andrea Stein
Vince Saverino
Stephanie Spiegel (Phone)

Absent:

David Berger
Ross Outten
Paul Karchestke
Bill Helm
Cleetus Freedman

Staff:

Charles Daas
Cecilia Diaz-Recorder

Guest:

Jacob Blanton

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

March Minutes; April Notes:

March 21, 2013 meeting minutes were approved. April 18, 2013 proceedings were only reviewed.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow/Audit

Charles reviewed the cash flow for the commissioners to review and the cash balance as of April 30 was \$338,917.40. Vince volunteered to reverse the bank's charge for the checkbook fees. April payments reflected charges from Bannerville. Payments in May 2013 were also made to Clean Street and Schanmier Landscaping. Vince asked for a definition of "Late Collections". Charles will follow up with Anne Coakley to clarify.

Charles reviewed the 2012 audit figures with the Commissioners. The audit has been submitted to the City of Chicago. Charles discussed the RCC plan to work with a volunteer local landscape architect on their Greening project. He and Schanmier located community areas (Lawrence Ave, Ravenswood, CTA planters) to improve.

Pop-up Store Front:

Charles report that Melanie Kahl was on board with the project. She checked out the proposed located of Lawrence and Hermitage. Target date to do the first event is in June. It would be an evening potluck community participation event to facilitate the conversation about "what would you like to see?" One idea is a Kopi Café (in Andersonville) like place, coffee house with retail sales items. This will lead to a

second phase – a three day pop-up event. Some retail businesses (e.g. *Neighborly, Alapash*) have expressed interest and would like to sell there. Vince suggested that Dunkin Donuts be notified. Jake asked if a business study would be provided to help future store owners decide what to open onsite. Stephanie recommended that the pop-up occur on Thursday-Friday-Saturday. Diane learned that other such events have provided liability insurance for the location of the pop-up, but not the contents.

Trash Containers:

Charles spoke to Jim Poole of the 47th Ward and recommend that the cans be introduced in phases. All agreed to wait on any cans for Lawrence until the Streetscape plan is under way. Damen would be the first street. The unanimous choice is for the container of rubberized coating steel material with Ravenswood on the side. Those in attendance were divided on color choice between brown and green. Diane asked that these minutes be circulated via email as soon as possible, and that all Commissioners vote by return email. Once Charles and staff from 47th Ward finalize a plan, commissioners can then approve the order for the first set.

Retail Map:

Jenny Boerkrem of Ork Posters agreed to help RCC with the retail map. There was discussion about possible locations to place large display and provide physical copies of map. All like the display to have QRP for smart-phone down load. Diane suggests that the electronic format of the map be easy to edit to keep current if at all possible. Vince recommends that RCC coordinate boundaries with North Center or LSR Chamber to minimize confusion.

SSA Citywide Forum:

Diane attended and shared information she had gathered. She was especially interested in how Wicker Park-Bucktown included residents in committees chaired by SSA Commissioners. There was information about best practices and a list of city resource contacts. She heard about “Make Way for People/Transforming the Public Way” a CDOT Program for use of streets and other public spaces for people. The installation cost for a “People Spot” is about \$800.00. The annual permit fee is \$75 and if there is enough space, a bike corral is included and stored for free.

New Business:

There was a discussion about expanding the boundaries of SSA#31 to include Montrose Avenue (Ashland to Damen) and Ravenswood north of Lawrence to Foster. Is it needed and who covers the areas that it doesn't? Diane tabled further discussion until the RCC's SSA31 contract is finalized in June. Diane mentioned that the Ravenswood archway design started by Joe Hayes and Michael Prince from Beyond Design is complete. (Please see attached mock-up) It would be located at the entry way of Ravenswood business corridor at the Irving Park intersection. The question is whether the commissioners would consider contributing towards the installation of the archway. Diane will bring more detailed information to the July meeting for discussion.

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Diane Walch at 2:20 p.m.