

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

Attended:

Diane Walch
Dr. Andrea Stein

Absent:

Vince Saverino
David Berger
Paul Kartcheske
Stephanie Spiegel
Bill Helm

Staff:

Danielle Inendino
Cecilia Diaz - Recorder

Guest:

Sharin Nathan (Sweet Sensation)
Ross Outten

Call to Order

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

November Minutes

November 4, 2013 minutes were approved.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow Report

Distributed to the board. On file.

SSA #31 Budget 2014

Diane walked the Commissioners through the 2014 budget status and explained the carryover and Aldermanic/DHED involvement in our process. Diane asked that we complete one final, detailed actual carryover at year end.

Andrea asked about the status of the garbage cans. We were surprised when we found out that the Ward will only allow us to replace existing containers, not place any new ones. Diane asked that we counter with an offer to the Alderman to take on 100% of garbage pick-up service for

the public containers, instead of the city servicing them once per week and the SSA twice. Will this allow us to place more containers – the original aim? All agreed that this would be preferable. We don't need prettier containers, but more of them. Andrea also asked that we investigate the use of "Big Belly" cans that are used in other districts.

Commissioners agreed that we should follow up on a previous request from the Alderman that the SSA manage the Berteau Greenway. This discussion was started last summer, but dropped.

Vince suggested that we meet with the contractor of Lawrence Streetscape project to receive a community update on the progress, like we did for the Metra project.

Diane met with Paul Link to clarify the issue of having snow removal for the parking spaces on the West side of the RW tracks south from Montrose to Berteau. Since this stretch is not Industrial Zone parking and includes many public parking spaces that serve the Montrose businesses and that are not maintained by the city, Diane moved that we continue to clear them as in past years. The vote was unanimous. Diane asked for a quote on the two blocks of parking spaces from Clean Streets. Danielle will follow up.

Diane mentioned that per the Alderman, RCC/SSA needs to correspond with all PINs in the SSA making them aware of the 2014 budget stipulations and the carryover issue. Commissioners discussed methods for obtaining this PIN information (Assessor's office, aldermanic office, SSA consultants) and using SSA funds to send mailings.

RCC Annual Meeting

Danielle reported to the Commissioners that the RCC annual meeting took place November 13. Lots of new faces on the board and they have already broken into committees to identify new projects. Next full board meeting will be in early January to proceed with hiring a new executive director. Danielle also reported that a city-wide SSA gathering was held at North Center Chamber in early November to assist SSA managers. This was a useful tool in navigating budget preparation, vendor acquisition and general management and other advice for SSA managers.

Holiday Walk

Danielle reported the establishment of the "Ravenswood Holiday Walk" presented by RCC and SSA #31 for the purpose of promoting the "Shop Local" initiative during the holiday and to also include some of the creative types that may not have brick and mortar establishments for marketing and promotion within the SSA. Danielle asked for a budget of \$2,000 for holiday walk based on the finding of additional funds left in the marketing line item. Diane motioned, Andrea second, unanimously approved.

New Business

With regards to SSA Commissioner recruitment, Paul recommended that we speak with some of the Clark Street business owners, like Real Kitchen, Pecking Order. Commissioners requested status of Jake Blanton and Ross Outten, Danielle is following up with them to complete their application. Danielle also reported that she was in contact with several other business owners as leads, such as Begyle Brewing and ORK Posters/Neighborly.

Commissioners discussed SSA Holiday party –unanimously decided that we should look to the third week of January for this. Danielle will research local venue options.

Diane asked for the SSA portion of the RCC website to be updated with current SSA contract and program information. Deadline for this was set for the end of the year.

Vince also asked that we look into quotes for SSA Directors Liability insurance.

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

Meeting was adjourned by motion at 4:17p.m.