

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, August 22, 2012
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Attending:

Dr. Andrea Stein
Vince Saverino
Diane Walch
Stephanie Spiegel
Glenn Fahlstrom
David Berger

Absent:

Cleetus Freedman
Paul Karchestke

Staff:

Charles Daas
Cristina Silva

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 3:05p.m.

July Minutes:

July 12th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by Vince Saverino's motion, 2nd by Diane Walch.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow

Cash flow and budget variance was reviewed. Charles Daas reported a cash balance of \$298,860. Charlie reported on the additional fees of \$2,000 which were allocated for Cristina Silva's work on the SSA survey and analysis.

Report on 8/8 SBIF Roll-Out – 1807 West Sunnyside

Cristina Silva and Charles Daas recapped the SBIF roll-out. While we anticipated 10-15 attendees, there was a successful turn-out of 24 people and several business owners were interested in the program. Somercor 504 provided a presentation on the program, which has a grant budget of \$500,000 for Ravenswood area businesses.

Graffiti Abatement Update

Charles Daas updated the commissioners on RCC's graffiti and etching removal efforts. RCC has provided program information to a few businesses who reported graffiti in their surveys. David Berger indicated that film installation is only a 3-4 year solution.

Review of 2013 Budget and Work Plan:

Charles Daas reviewed the budget workplan for 2013. The following funds have been allocated (amounts reflect 2013 allocations + the 2012 carry over funds):

- Advertising and Promotion - \$9,500: bike to work week, website maintenance, and SSA map – interactive online map and print map
- Public Way Maintenance -\$128,000: sidewalk cleaning services (3x per week) and snow cleaning services. RCC will get 3 competitive bids for supplemental trash can cleaning services for September 10, 2012 through November 1, 2012 along Damen Avenue and Lawrence Avenue. RCC will also request bids for next year from April 1, 2013-Nov. 1, 2013 including complete SSA sidewalk cleaning coverage (including trash can cleaning). RCC will ask Neumann to identify garbage hotspots and whether extra cans are needed.
- Public Way Aesthetics -\$107,000: landscaping and holiday decorations. Holiday decorations fund allocations increased to \$30,000 (up from \$24,000). \$9,600 will be added to way-finding and signage.
- Façade Improvements - \$24,500: graffiti and glass etching removal and film installation.
- *New fund allocations for next year include:*
 - Bike Parking -\$15,000: RCC has found bike rack vendors but is looking for clearance from the City of Chicago on installation of bike racks. CDOT has a long waiting period for bike rack installation; RCC seeking other options for installation.
 - Commissioner Development and District Planning - \$9,000: new SSA District planning funds will allow commissioners to visit other SSA's and receive professional development. The budget should be amended so that money is allocated for the east side of the Metra tracks, not the west.
- Salaries- \$79,000: Charles Daas' and Cristina Silva's salaries. The City recommended a study of the area commercial vacancy. \$20,000 allocated to hire someone to conduct a retail study of the corridor. Maintenance agreement needed from Andrea.

The levy tax has been reduced due to the carry over. Diane Walch requested the number that the rate has been reduced from. Charles Daas will provide the previous rate at the next meeting.

SSA Survey:

Cristina Silva reported that approximately 60 surveys were conducted. Summer Manogg and Cristina Silva began entering and visualizing the survey data in Arc GIS. The surveys will be completed by the end of September.

Carry Over Fund Investment:

There was discussion about moving \$50,000 into a CD with 1.25 percent interest through First Chicago bank. The CD would protect or insure the money. Vince Saverino will look further into the details of opening a CD.

Bike Parking:

Upcoming projects will include installing bike racks. Charles Daas asked whether we could move funds from another place to address current bike parking needs. Diane Walch suggested moving funds from the Facade Improvement program. Glenn F. would like to see bike rules and bike friendly signs posted in the community. David Berger suggested that the Alderman should incorporate the idea into their bike program.

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Diane Walch at 4:31 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for September 13th at 3 p.m.

Recorder: Cristina Silva