

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2012
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Commissioners Attending:

Dr. Andrea Stein
Vince Saverino
Diane Walch
David Berger
Bill Helm

Visitors

Jerry Cuzelis (former SSA #31 Commissioner)

Commissioners Absent:

Cleetus Freedman
Paul Karchestke
Stephanie Spiegel
Glenn Fahlstrom

Staff:

Charles Daas

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 3:10p.m.

October Minutes:

October 4th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by Bill Helm's motion, 2nd by Vince Saverino.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow

Cash flow and budget variance was reviewed by the commissioners. Charles Daas reported a cash balance of \$350,795.33. This report will be amended to include the RCC's administrative costs.

Staffing

Charles explained that Cristina Silva resigned from her position. This puts us at a disadvantage in moving forward quickly with sending out invitations to the Holiday Gathering. Diane said she would reach out to a couple of graphics designers who may be able to help.

Status of SSA #31

Shortly before this meeting, we received an email from Alderman Pawar explaining his position on our Service Provider for 2013. The levy for our funding is going before City Council without specifying a service provider. We agreed that the SSA needs to work with the RCC to see that the specified remedies will be met. Alderman Pawar indicated that he would like to see the RCC be able to function without an overreliance on city funding. Andrea Stein noted that a successful fundraiser was held at Beyond Design about a year ago and that we should consider hosting another event in the Ravenswood corridor.

December 4th "Catch the Spirit" Holiday Event at the Black Ensemble Theater

We discussed several ideas, including offering to buy gift cards from the local restaurants in exchange for their donation of hors d'oeuvres and staffing for the event. We would then raffle off the gift cards, and possibly a few tickets to BET performances. We plan to display posters to explain what an SSA does, and what we've been working on – Lawrence and Clark streetscape, bike racks, banner program and an update on the METRA reconstruction. We will provide a literature table, and invite participation in the forthcoming retail map being planned. This is being presented as a joint activity hosted by SSA #31, RCC and the BET. We were informed that RCC volunteers will distribute flyers once they are produced. We plan to send the invite by email and to post in local businesses.

Street Cleaning and Trash Pickup

We will continue with Neumann Family Services as long as the weather allows. We wrapped up the Monday trash pickup on Lawrence and Damen by Cleanstreets, which added Montrose at no additional charge. SSA #31 will need to identify a new provider/contract for 2013.

Andrea mentioned that some of the public trash cans along Damen had been removed, and that the litter had increased substantially. Charlie Daas noted that the city has removed them because they couldn't keep them picked up enough to keep them from overflowing. We agreed to contact the Alderman's office to find out what's possible. If the city can't maintain the cans, but will provide them and the dumping site, we may take over responsibility for that service entirely.

New Business

We need to set and publish the meeting schedule for 2013.

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Diane Walch at 4:49 p.m.

Recorder: Diane Walch