

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2012
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Attending:

Dr. Andrea Stein
Vince Saverino
Diane Walch
Glenn Fahlstrom
Cleetus Freedman

Absent:

Stephanie Spiegel
David Berger
Paul Karchestke

Staff:

Charles Daas

Call to Order:

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

August Minutes:

August 22nd meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by Andrea Stein's motion, 2nd by Diane Walch.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow

Cash flow and budget variance was reviewed. Charles Daas reported on significant new cash income of \$58,143 we also caught up with May and June invoices to Newmann Services (\$13,245) leaving an end of the month cash balance of \$366,242.

SSA Operations and Business Promotions

RCC is stepping up its work to repair existing banners and include more local business in the program. Cleetus Friedman inquired how the businesses can best communicate with one another and inquired about a Facebook page for the SSA (Note: RCC does maintain a Facebook page).

Diane Walch discussed the meeting that she had with Melissa Flynn and the renamed Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber of Commerce, which has approached SSA #31 – Greater Ravenswood to be the service provider. Cleetus raised concerns about diluting the identity of the Ravenswood Community

(and whether the RCC was not providing sufficient services to warrant a change to the Lincoln Square Chamber). (*unclear*) Vince Saverino noted that Ravenswood has a distinct identity, while Charlie Daas discussed the quasi-industrial nature of the corridor which contrasts with the retail corridor along Lincoln Avenue. Andrea Stein noted that she is a member of the LSRCC but does not receive much in the way of services. Diane Walch indicated that the budget and workplan for 2013 must be approved by the city council and that we must submit a letter to Alderman Pawar requesting his support. She noted that the Alderman is concerned in the long term viability of the organization and its perception as a “political organization.” She also indicated that she has been encouraged by the work that’s been started this year, and was not eager to go through more changes after the personnel changes at the RCC, and the merger of SSA #31 and #37. All of the commissioners in attendance voiced their support to continue the contract with the RCC.

SSA Logos

We will review these via e-mail in preparation for the branding of the SSA at the Ravenswood Art Walk on September 29-30. (Note: In previous years, SSA #31 has sponsored the trolley, which has been discontinued. Instead we are sponsoring a tent at the Art Walk this year.)

SSA Survey

Charlie Daas reported that approximately 75 surveys were conducted. It was suggested that the raw data could be presented to the commissioners in excel format.

Carry Over Fund Investment:

There was discussion about moving \$50,000 into a CD with 1.15 percent interest through First Chicago Bank. Commissioners decided that it would be best to keep the money in the checking account, rather than tie it up for 18 months with the CD.

Trash Removal Bids

Commissioners were presented with three bids from CleanSlate, Cleanstreets and Groot. After discussion of the merits of each, Cleanstreets was chosen as the contractor to do Monday only garbage pick-up of the public cans along Lawrence and Damen through October. Commissioners noted that we may want to consider purchasing and placing cans in strategic locations in the SSA. Some concerns were raised if we were subsidizing the city’s required services, but Charlie Daas noted that both Central Lakeview and Andersonville SSAs have been asked to handle public garbage can pick-up. Diane Walch noted that we may want to consider year-round garbage pick-up since our contract with Newmann only covers the period from April to November.

Tabled for next meeting – Merchants Retail Map, Holiday decorations bids.

The meeting was adjourned by motion of Diane Walch at 4:35 p.m.

An additional meeting is scheduled for October 4th at 3 p.m.

Recorder: Charles Daas