

Greater Ravenswood SSA #31
Minutes of Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2013
1802 W. Berteau Avenue, Suite 102

Attending:

Diane Walch

David Berger

Paul Kartcheske

Dr. Andrea Stein

Stephanie Spiegel (Phone)

Vince Saverino

Absent:

Cleetus Freedman

Bill Helm

Staff:

Danielle Inendino

Cecilia Diaz-Recorder

Call to Order

Diane called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

June Minutes

August 28, 2013 minutes were approved.

Budget Variance/Cash Flow Report

Discussion tabled – report delayed.

Plan for Interim Administration of SSA#31

Diane expressed concern at the lack of information from the RCC regarding plans for addressing staff changes. A gap in staffing could become a major issue in maintaining the operation of SSA#31. All attending commissioners voiced their concerns and disappointment that RCC Board has not been in touch with us regarding its plans. This puts SSA#31 in a vulnerable state after struggling for months to keep SSA#31 under RCC. Vince pointed out that Charles is the only signer on the account at this point. Vince informed us that the FDIC regulations have changed again, and even though our account is not interest bearing, the limit for insured funds is now \$250,000, leaving us some exposure. Diane moved that we shift funds in excess of \$200,000 to a money market fund, leaving it available and protected. The motion carried unanimously.

Bicycle Racks and Trash Cans

Charles paid the first installment of \$13,400 (1/2 of the total) to REMAC Company to start production of 30 bike racks. Once the proposed location of the racks is finalized, it will be forwarded to the 47 Ward for final approval. Cecilia provided a brief overview of the revised proposed location map. It will be updated and final revision sent to all SSA#31 Commissioners. There is no plan to install bike racks along

Lawrence until the road diet/streetscape project is completed. The bulk of the racks will be placed on Clark, Damen, Montrose and Ravenswood. The contract price includes installation.

Cecilia reported that Rudy from The Lincoln Square/Ravenswood Chamber said he would partner with RCC to purchase trash cans. LS/R Chamber will purchase 10 cans and place them along Damen. The location of the twenty SSA#31 Trash cans is being finalized and forward to 47th Ward for approval before sending to vendor for production. Once in place, the sponsoring agency will be responsible for the cost of servicing the containers twice per week, in addition to one pick up per week from the 47th Ward.

Snowplowing Bids

RCC is waiting on bids from three vendors: Patch, Cleanslate and Tovar. We are requesting quotes for both a seasonal contract and per occurrence cost.

SSA#31 Changed Boundaries and Status of 2014 Budget and Workplan

We were recently informed that at some point in the past, the boundaries of SSA #31 were extended beyond what the Commissioners were aware of. Copies of an updated map were distributed. We will need to see how we can best serve these additional areas. For the few isolated businesses at the far ends of Ravenswood, including them in much of our regular efforts of cleaning and snow removal doesn't seem prudent. City of Chicago provided a copy of the 2014 proposed budget and work plan. It's not clear what the deadline for submission of an amended plan is at this point.

Ravenswood Retail Map

Jenny (Ork Poster) completed a sample map. It is in its final stages and should be completed in time for Art walk. The retail map would complement the event. There are other ideas on how to use this comprehensive map.

New Business

Cecilia asked if there were other business leaders that could join the SSA#31 Commissioner Anna Maria Pastaria, Pecking Order, Angel Food, LillStreet and Real Kitchen were mentioned. Cecilia will email copies of the City's Open Meetings Guidelines, and revised trash can & bike rack maps to all Commissioners.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 1pm.

Meeting was adjourned by motion at 2:15 p.m.