

**Greater Ravenswood-SSA #31
Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
1770 West Berteau Ave, Suite 207**

Call to Order:

1) Welcome Barbara Bolsen, Paul Kartcheske, Nick Yassan, Megan Bunimovich, Michael Sewall

2) Review financials and meeting minutes (motion). **Motion to approve financials made by Barb, seconded by Paul. Motion carried. Motion to approve September 8 meeting minutes made by Barb, seconded by Paul. Motion carried.**

3) Old Business:

- a) **Small Business Saturday and Group Purchasing Program:** Michael said that the SSA is seeking to move \$10,000 from budget line item 4.10 (Reconstitution) to budget line item 4.02 (Group Purchasing Program) to have funds for the holiday shopping program, which will issue gift cards to shoppers who spend above a certain amount at local businesses. The commissioners said the program is a great idea and hope it's successful. **Motion to move \$10,000 to line item 4.02 made by Barb, seconded by Nick. Motion carried.**
- b) **Sculpture Program Renewal:** Michael reported that both of the SSA's sculptures are up for renewal, and the "Swinging Man" sculpture on Damen has been receiving bids from other areas. The SSA has a \$10,000 line item in its budget for public art and could use it to renew its use of the existing sculptures, bid for new sculptures, or put the money toward a matching program to create a mural in the Ravenswood Corridor. In that scenario, the SSA would match \$10,000 from the 47th Ward and the City of Chicago to spend \$30,000 on a mural. The commissioners liked the latter idea because it would last longer, it would triple the value of the money, and the SSA could return to the sculpture program the following year. **Motion to discontinue sculpture program for 2017 made by Barb, seconded by Nick, motion carried.**
- c) **Public Relations:** Megan said the SSA is seeking to extend its public relations contract for 2017. An eight-month pilot run with The Silverman Group concluded in December. Commissioners said they would like to renew the contract but added they would like to see additional television coverage. **Motion to extend the public relations contract for 2017 made by Paul, seconded by Barb. Motion carried.**
- d) **Audit:** Megan said the SSA is seeking to extend its auditor contract with Eilts & Associates to encompass the 2016 audit. Commissioners said they thought it was best to keep the same company, especially because Megan will be gone early in the year. **Motion to extend auditor contract made by Barb, seconded by Nick. Motion carried.**
- e) **Interim Executive Director:** Megan announced that while she is on maternity leave there will be two interim executive directors: Ross Outten, former chamber board president, will lead chamber functions, and Ellen Shepard, former Andersonville Chamber director, will oversee SSA functions. There will be a meet and greet on Monday, Nov. 28.

- f) **Final 2016 Budget Approval:** Megan said that the final 2016 budget must be approved and reviewed it with the commissioners. **Motion to approve the final 2016 budget made by Barb, seconded by Nick. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned.