

SSA 31

RAVENSWOOD

**Greater Ravenswood-SSA #31
Commissioners Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.
1802 West Berteau Ave, Suite 102**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order:

- 1) **Welcome**
- 2) **Review** February 2014 minutes- Approved by Dr. Stein; Second by Paul
- 3) **Attendance:** Paul Kartcheske, Diane Walch, Dr. Andrea Stein, Joy Coombes, RCC- Gene Wagendorf
- 4) **Old Business**
 - a) Audit Presentation from Eilts- No findings from audit & we were cleared. no problem. We came within a few hundred dollars of budget. New format for auditing from the city. 12/31/14 \$63,000. 1st quarter has changes in reporting (it will be for 2014); so the balance reflecting the first three months are for 2014. Budgeting method hopefully won't change. Joy will follow up with Megan in case there would need to have a budget revision. Boundaries need to be expanded according to the audit report. Joy recommended revisiting switching the sole service provide from a 501c3 to the chamber a 501c6 & talking to the North River Commission about their structure. Motion to approve audit: Diane; second: Dr. Stein.
 - b) Powerwashing- June 1st will begin around Metra & L stations.
 - c) SSA Commissioner- Barbara Bolson & Nick Yassan are moving forward with their applications, but we need to follow up with Nick & are waiting on Alderman O'Connor's letter of support.

- d) Bike Racks- Installed 1st week of April. One complaint about one installed in front of Neighborly: not enough room for multiple strollers & potentially hard to shovel. Otherwise, feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. 3-5 left to install: Long Room, Dolce Casa Café & Rany Management are interested in getting a bike rack.
- e) The Chamber of Commerce- Incorporated in March; RCC & GRCC boards being restructured & chamber launch on May 28th. A tri-chamber event will be happening later in the year with Northcenter, LSRCC & GRCC.

5) New Business

- a) Banking Information- MB Financial not competitive and not interested in participating in the community. Exploring ByLine Bank, which has a more competitive money market rates & is interested in being involved in the community. Diane reminded us about anything over 200K is not ensured. Joy suggested we keep banks in mind for marketing & event purposes. RCC will follow up with ByLine, accounts currently still at Wintrust.
- b) A Greener Ravenswood- June 25th at Beyond Design; Rep. Ann Williams & Alderman Pawar will be in attendance. Rolling out vendors & silent auction material now.
- c) RAW Updates- Business registration closed now, we will end up with 40 businesses participating, up nearly 10 from last year. Encouraging involvement from the brown line businesses. SSA approved \$10,000 sponsorship of RAW 2015, the same amount as 2014.
- d) Street Cleaning- Started this week. Lots of garbage!
- e) Farmer's Market- Ravenswood Evangelical at Ainslie & Damen reached out in February to host a farmers market & also making the space available for community events. It is an alright space, but activating it is difficult with such short notice. They want RCC to execute with some volunteer help from them. RCC helped sign the pastor up for a Farmer's Market Training & will revisit next year. For 2015, Gene suggested setting up an art fair with the schools in the neighborhood & asking food trucks to come out. 5411 Empanada truck said they would donate back 15% to RCC, which would use funds to help launch market next year. RCC also sending a survey to tenants in building at Ravenswood and Berteau to find out how the businesses would like to see the parking lot space activated.
- f) Lawrence Avenue Banners- Margaret engaged in ongoing discussions with the Alderman's office and LSRCC about finishing the street scape up & complete the look with banners. The initial suggestion is to utilize neighborhood names as identifiers & install metal banners, which are more expensive but last longer. LSRCC are getting two bids. GRCC needs to get at least one bid for metal. The dividing point for the neighborhood identifiers would be Damen; east of Damen would be Ravenswood; west of Damen would be Lincoln Square. Request funding come from SSA #31 Damen eastward. Committee based way of deciding design. The sponsorship of banners would

need to be decided still. The banners in Central Lakeview support sponsorship. LSRCC & GRCC would need to decide if sponsorship is an option.

g) Metra Community Garden- Along the Ravenwood tracks (Berteau to Montrose); Gene presented a proposal from Meeting Tomorrow who is working in conjunction with the Alderman's office on the plans for the new Metra Community Gardens. The SSA would be asked to consider two ideas: an SSA sponsored tool shed and art installations/sculpture. Costs for sculpture & installation is \$1500. The budget for art installation is \$8000. The \$1500 would be deducted from there for the sculpture. There is a walk through for the gardens. Jim will attend that work through Saturday, April 25th at 11am or Dr. Stein will attend the Tuesday, April 28th at 6pm with Gene on behalf of RCC. Gene is going to follow up with the number of gardens & how many are allocated, as well as to who or if they charge for them. The proposal for the funding amounts to about 10K, of which the RCC will fund a % yet to be determined. Soil test will determine the scope. Gene will request someone from the project to the next SSA meeting

6) **Motion to Adjourn:** Diane; second: Paul. Next SSA meeting June 11th at 2pm at RCC offices.