



## **Commissioners Meeting**

**Thursday, June 11th, 2015 at 2:30 p.m.**

**1802 West Berteau Ave, Suite 102**

### **Attendees**

Diane Walch, Barbara Bolson, David Berger, Andrea Stein, Paul Kartcheske

Public Attendees: Renee from Meetings Tomorrow, Dara Salk, Joe the Intern from 47<sup>th</sup>, Nora Curry from the City of Chicago, Joy Coombes

### **Call to Order**

Diane Walch

### **Acceptance of May Minutes**

Diane motioned for acceptance, Paul seconded the motion. Minutes accepted

### **Montrose Garden Corridor Project**

Background: 37 plots along west side Ravenswood tracks between Montrose and Berteau for the use of residents, businesses, and food pantry/volunteer/NFP organizations

- Funds are administered through 501C3 Neighbor Space
- Three months into the project, they have recouped and repaid some of the upfront costs with dues/memberships residents paid to use the garden plots.
- Three plots out of 37 remain. Residents pay \$75; businesses pay \$125
- There are underlying costs associated, which can be mitigated through help by the SSA
- Water was a priority and the resolved
- Startup costs were 10K
- Art installation is a priority to make the area beautiful
- Making a walkway (200ft long) with some hardware installation, such as benches, for community access
- Sturdier walkways up to the access points would be helpful to keep people safe

## **Current Requests for SSA for Montrose Garden Project**

- Making it safer for people to access would seem to be the best use of SSA funds
- Engineering study would be helpful to determine best course of action
- Center access is important, as well
- Dave said to consider asking Patch and Brickman Landscaping for consult or assistance

## **Old Business**

### **Commissioner Application and Renewal Status**

Nora updated the group regarding their Commission applications.

### **Bike Racks**

There are five bike racks left for installation.

### **Greener**

On time and budget for event this month.

### **Chamber**

The Commission should consider whether or not they want the Community Council or the Chamber of Commerce to administer their contract in 2016.

### **Façade Rebate Program**

Three applications: JASC, Salon Elan Vital, Michael Hart building. Had 10K, we will pay out \$6300 if all the proposals go through.

### **Lawrence Ave Banner Program**

The Alderman has requested the SSA to consider branding the new Lawrence Avenue Streetscape with banners promoting the neighborhood. Megan is exploring how to best integrate this into our current neighborhood brand.

## **New Business**

### **Budget**

2016 budget vs 2015: \$50k allocated to 2017 reconstitution

- New funds dedicated to marketing and PR about what the SSA funds have been used for to build a positive impact in the community
- Removed social media in budget because it wasn't used in 2015
- Increased Façade Rebate program by 5K, making it 15K in 2016 due to demand
- Snow removal budget is increased 2K, making it 62K in 2016 because of issues in 2015
- Power washing will be increased to 19K to account for the whole SSA map vs 2015 that focused on the CTA stations

- 5K for more bike racks due to demand; Andrea asked if the racks can be adjusted to fit a standard lock
- Megan pulled Strategic Planning & Economic Planning set for 2015; moved it to Master Planning totaling 15K. We are looking to work with the Alderman's office to pull together a Master Plan for the area. SSA would be facilitating it with the city; we could also ask for TIF funds to help us get the plan rounded out.
- SSA Management decreased lot by 3K; but putting in for banking fees, which was around \$300 in 2014 & should be about the same.

These account for all the changes, everything else is the same amount as 2015.

Sole Service Provider: In the past, it was the RCC. Diane suggested that going forward, the provider would be GRCC since most SSA's are administrated by Chambers.

**Motion to approve the work plan, budget and service provider to become GRCC: Motioned by Barbara Bolson and Paul seconded the motion. No objections. Passed.**

#### **Finance Review**

We only received half our budget from 2015. Megan has seeking out a bridge loan. Vetted several banks, including Wintrust, MB Financial. The bridge loan would be approved by American Eagle Bank if the SSA accounts are moved over to the bank.

SSA Board would need to approve. No answer needed at this point.

#### **Community Market**

RCC is hosting a pop up market to test the Farmers Market capabilities at the church at Ainslie/Damen (SW corner).

#### **Motion to Adjourn**

**Diane; second Paul.**