



**SSA#34 – Advisory Commission  
Special Meeting  
October 21, 2008 – 6:00 pm  
Aon Insurance, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
5050 N. Broadway, Chicago, Illinois**

**DRAFT Minutes**

Commissioners Present:

Terry Tuohy (President), David Rettker (Treasurer), Margaret Haywood (Secretary), Eric Cheng, Chip Long, Warren Preis, Ray Rickert

Commissioners Absent:

Tom Cameron, Chuck Lawrence, Jenny Martin, Steve Milford, Mitch Schneider

Others in attendance:

Joyce Dugan, Uptown United  
Wally Rozak, Uptown United  
Cindi Anderson on behalf of Uptown Chicago Commission  
Dana Fritz, Staff for Ald. Mary Ann Smith (48<sup>th</sup> Ward)

Meeting called to order 6:05pm

- I. **Public Input:** Cindi Anderson spoke on behalf of the Uptown Chicago Commission (UCC). She gave overview of some of communitywide public safety concerns that have become more prominent in 2008. In response, State Rep. Greg Harris & State Sen, Heather Steans have held large public meeting and have organized smaller leadership groups around specific aspects of enhancing public safety.

The UCC is working on the issue of public safety from the residents' perspective. Anderson requested that the SSA earmark more funds for public safety, particularly in support of security cameras. She also suggested that it could be done through an incentive program, offering local businesses cash to turn one of their existing security cameras (or add one) to face the street for both deterrence and investigation. She specifically asked that the amount of the SSA budget for public safety be increased from 5% of total budget to 10% in 2009, work more closely with all of the groups on public safety, and consider funding proposals as they arise. Anderson added that

footage from the Tattoo Factory's cameras on the 4400 block of North Broadway had been used in capturing activity on that block. Anderson noted that the SSA cannot buy "blue light" cameras for the Police Department as there currently is no mechanism/procedure in place to accept them through their procurement system.

Rozak related meetings held by Business Partners' Public Safety Committee and some of the issues, ideas, and tactics discussed there. The idea of the SSA helping businesses and property owners cover expenses for private security cameras was well received.

The Edgewater SSA has a camera program targeting the CTA Red Line stations at Granville and Thorndale that they believe is a good deterrent. Rozak would contact them about cost.

- II. **Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes for the September 15 meeting made by Preis, seconded by Long, and approved unanimously by voice vote.
- III. **Finance Report:** Working with Uptown United's CPA, Rozak developed some analyses of current financial standing and projected cash flow going into 2009. He reported that 85% of '07 funds came in during calendar year '07, the rest came in during calendar 2008. We're anticipating that 25% of the FY08 money will actually be received in calendar 2009. This raised the question of how best to manage cash flows. The City of Chicago deposits into the SSA's account payment for as the City receives taxes from the County. Dugan voiced concerns about the possibility of increased non-collection of taxes in addition to delayed collection due to taxes being paid later and later.

Tuohy asked what budget areas the Commission still had control over for FY 2008. Dugan suggested the Commission consider foregoing holiday decorations as a measure of prudence and hedge against unreliable tax receipts. The decorations are up on the street for only six weeks. Long also noted concerns with lack of impact in last year's decorations and that it's difficult to have high impact across a large SSA without spending more. Preis moved to forego the holiday decorations for 2008; and Long seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rozak noted that we will have to bid out for an audit for FY08.

Uptown United also plans to open new accounts at other banks or credit unions if necessary so that SSA fund balances remain below the FDIC insured limit of \$250,000.

Some cost savings have been implemented: a shift to a different insurance firm for liability will save approximately \$8,000 for the SSA; a change in the type of wire

transfer the City uses to move property tax monies into the SSA account will result in approximately \$200-300 in annual savings.

- IV. **Contracts:** Holiday decorations were already discussed. The litter removal contract for 2009 came in with a 5% increase. They built in dealing with City trash receptacles. They also came in with \$2,000 less on snow removal for the period of November 15 to March 15.
- V. **Meeting Schedule:** The Commission decided that it did not need to meet again during the calendar year. The next meeting is January 13, 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Tentative schedule for 2009 is the second Tuesday of every other month. The Nominating Committee will meet before January.
- VI. **Announcements:** The Annual Holiday Reception held by Uptown United and Uptown Business Partners will be on December 2, in the Bridgeview Bank lobby. In early October, Rozak, Commissioner Jenny Martin, two Cleanslate interns, and a number of area block club worked together on a Saturday morning to mulch the tree pits along Argyle Street. Terry Tuohy attended the CARA Program's annual fundraiser on behalf of Uptown United and the SSA Commission.
- VII. **Adjournment:** Long moved to adjourn, Rettker seconded. Approved unanimously by voice vote at 7:00 pm.