



SSA#34 – Advisory Commission Meeting
January 13, 2009, 3:30 pm
Combined Insurance, 1st Floor Conference Room
5050 N. Broadway, Chicago, Illinois

Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Terry Tuohy (President), David Rettker (Treasurer), Margaret Haywood (Secretary), Chuck Lawrence, Chip Long, Jenny Martin, Steve Milford, Chip Long, Warren Preis, Mitch Schneider

Commissioners Absent:

Eric Cheng, Tom Cameron

Others in attendance:

Joyce Dugan, Uptown United
Wally Rozak, Uptown United
Kelly Cheng, Sun Wah BBQ Restaurant
Christie Hahn, Business Partners, Chamber for Uptown
Yvonne Odell, Staff for Ald. Helen Shiller, 46th Ward

- I. Public Input:** Kelly Cheng announced that there will be a lunar New Year parade on Argyle Street on January 31, starting at 11:45 am.

Stewart Sheinfeld appeared on behalf of the Board of Business Partners, the Chamber for Uptown (UBP). He expressed UBPs' unhappiness that they were not notified of the SSA Commission's decision to forgo holiday decorations. While acknowledging that the SSA Commission has the right to make such decisions, he asked that the Commission advise UBPs about similar issues in the future so that there could be discussion. It was agreed that the SSA could give advance notice on such issues in the future.

Stewart also expressed concern that the tax rate for the SSA had been raised, when business owners had been told that would not happen. Joyce Dugan explained that the SSA cannot raise the cap on the total amount to be raised from the area. (In the case of SSA #34, the cap is 0.25% of EAV.) However, the rate for each property may go up fractionally so that the same amount can be raised from year to year. She further stated that the SSA Commission submits its budget to the City annually, at which point the City determines what the tax rate will be to raise the funds. Long

moved to make it a priority for the SSA to keep the tax rate for the 2010 budget the same as it was in 2006. Preis seconded and the motion was approved.

II. Minutes: from the October 2008 meeting were approved unanimously. Moved, Warren Preis, seconded Rettker.

III. Meeting Schedule: Rozak reported that, due to requirements of the SSA Commission (e.g. drafting a 2010 budget for both April 1 and July 15 deadlines, as well as adjusting the 2009 budget) it would be prudent for the Commission to meet monthly until June to ensure adequate planning and input. Per unanimous vote, the remainder of the 2009 regular meeting is as follows:

Tuesday, February 17

Thursday, March 19

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, May 19

Tuesday, June 16

Tuesday, August 18

Tuesday, October 20

Meetings will continue to be held in the first floor conference room of Combined Insurance, 5050 N. Broadway, at 3:30 pm.

IV. Nominating Committee: Chip Long, Terry Tuohy, and former Commissioner Michelle Feuer met in November to discuss those who have submitted their nominations and to discuss other potential Commissioners.

Steve Milford was nominated to be Vice-Chair and has accepted with the approval of the Commission. The Executive Committee for 2009 consists of Tuohy (Chair), Milford (Vice Chair), Rettker (Treasurer), and Haywood (Secretary).

Tuohy met with two new Commissioner nominees late in December: Noreen Keeney and Marco Morales, both residential property owners in the SSA who Tuohy felt have skills that can benefit the work of the Commission. A third nominee to be submitted to the Aldermen and City is Kelly Cheng, daughter of Eric Cheng who would like to step down.

Rozak reported on the frustration with the length of time it takes to have nominees reviewed by the City “scofflaw check” i.e. for outstanding City debts. Yvonne Odell from Ald. Shiller’s office offered assistance in expediting the process in help get Commission nominees seated and vacancies filled.

Tuohy also reported that the Nominating Committee also needs to fill the Commission seat held by Ray Rickert. Rickert passed away suddenly at the end of November. The Nominating Committee will seek another Buena Park stakeholder to replace him.

V. Committee Assignments: After an overview & brief discussion of the Committee structure, assignments were made:

- a. Safety
 - i. Preis, Martin, Milford, Abby Hans (or designee)
- b. Administration
 - i. Nominating – Tuohy, Long, Michelle Feuer
 - ii. Finance – Rettker, Tuohy, Marco Morales
- c. Cleanliness & Maintenance
 - i. Milford, Kelly Cheng, Martin
- d. Beautification & Promotion
 - i. Beautification/Holiday Decorations: Long, Tuohy, Preis
 - ii. Promotion/Marketing: Lawrence, Long, Keeney

Schneider will talk to Rozak about which committee he is best suited.

The Commission is making extra effort to involve non-Commissioner stakeholders at the Committee level in order to increase stakeholder involvement and broaden the scope of discussion and decision making.

VI. Finance Report: Rettker presented a draft of the balance sheet and profit and loss statement for 2008. There is an apparent \$26,000 in carryover from 2008 to 2009, consisting mainly of holiday decorations budget (\$16,000), tax revenue from 2006 (\$5,000, and budgeted carryover (\$2,000). Approximately 95% of the 2007 tax revenues expected in calendar 2008 were received.

VII. Public Safety Issues: Rozak has been working in concert with the Uptown Business Partners Public Safety Committee. Christie Hahn of UBP stated that the Committee has been working on ways for businesses to be more proactive. Planning is underway to put on a safety vendor and information fair at Truman in March. Rozak said that they've also want to create business block captains to be the eyes on the street. Steve suggested that business owners should be able to email each other about problems. Long asked about progress in surveying businesses to see who has security cameras. Christie indicated that polling will take place soon. Rozak found out about a Southwest Side SSA that has a rebate program for businesses that purchase cameras and security systems. Long suggested this SSA broker group discounts and Milford said that he would talk to his vendor about it. Milford also asked if there were City incentives for businesses to buy security cameras. Rozak noted that aspects of security systems may be SBIF-eligible.

VIII. Old Business:

Snow Removal: Rozak asked everyone to let him know if there are problems with snow removal.

Referrals to Cleanslate: Rozak noted efforts to increase the quality and quantity of Uptown individuals who are referred to the Cleanslate program. A recruiter from

Cleanslate's parent organization – The Cara Program – presented at the January Community Partners meeting. Rozak will also work with The Cara Program to reestablish contacts within referring agencies based in Uptown.

City Paperwork: Rozak also reminded everyone that Ethics forms will be mailed out in January and that they are due in May.

- IX. New Business:** Tuohy and Rozak met with Alderman Helen Shiller in December to update her on issues with SSA. Ald. Shiller is very supportive of the Cleanslate program. A similar meeting with Ald. Smith and/or her staff is in the works.

Tuohy invited fellow commissioner to attend the grand opening that Weiss Hospital will be having a grand opening for their new medical building on Thursday, January 15 at 4:30pm.

- X. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Long, seconded by Milford, unanimously approved by voice vote at 4:49 pm.