



**Uptown Special Service Area (SSA#34)
Advisory Commission Meeting
September 16, 2009, 4:00 pm
Combined Insurance, 1st Fl., 5050 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL**

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Terry Tuohy (Chair), Steve Milford (Vice Chair), Margaret Haywood (Secretary), Tom Cameron, Noreen Keeney, Marco Morales, Warren Preis

Commissioners Absent:

David Rettker (Treasurer), Kelly Cheng, Chip Long, Jenny Martin, Mitch Schneider

Others in attendance:

Joyce Dugan, President/CEO, Uptown United
Wally Rozak, SSA #34 Administrator, Uptown United
Michael Harrington, Public Allies/Uptown United

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm.

- I. **Public Input:** None
Attendees introduced themselves.

- II. **Review of Minutes:** from the July 8, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously. Moved, Warren Preis, seconded Steve Milford.

- III. **Nominations:**
There are still four open seats on the on Commission. Four Commissioners have filed to renew for two year terms. Rozak stated that, in order to keep an equitable geographic distribution of Commissioners, it would be preferable to have one more person from the Argyle Street area and at least one more from Buena Park. Possibilities for recruitment included Nick's, The Spot, a State Farm Insurance Office, and the one of the theaters near Broadway & Buena. The nominating committee now includes Terry Tuohy, Margaret Haywood, Chip Long, and Michelle Fire from Big Chicks, who was formerly a Commissioner.

- IV. **Litter Free Uptown Project/Public Allies:**
The commissioners were introduced to Michael Harrington, who is working with the SSA through Public Allies. He is a University of Illinois graduate with a BS in industrial/organizational psychology. His job will be to integrate a litter-free zone and

recycling campaign into the area schools, including Truman, Goudy, Stewart and Uplift. He has coordinated a composting seminar on Friday at two of the schools. In the long term, the plan is to foster projects & curriculum in the schools that the teachers, staff and students will run themselves and that may potentially be grantworthy.

V. Old Business:

Holiday Decorations. Tuohy presented the idea for the SSA to purchase 200 to 300 wreaths, which the schools will theme and decorate for judging. The wreaths will be distributed to local businesses and then the SSA will work with Uptown Business Partners to cosponsor neighborhood events for people to view them. The cost should be minimal when compared to typical streetpole decorations. There are also plans to have entertainment around the neighborhood to attract people. Last year, there were no decorations because of financial concerns.

Security Rebate. Rozak is working out details, including how to include condos that are within the SSA. For example, the Commissioners must decide the reimbursement level per project. The level of \$1,000 was suggested.

VI. New Business:

Financials. The flow of tax payments being received is about where expected at point in the year. The second installment of property taxes (the source of funds for the SSA) will not be due until November 16 at the earliest. So we will not see any money until close to the end of the year. The P&L shows two negatives for 2005 and 2006 income. This is because people contested their property taxes and won, meaning that money was refunded to them and defunded from the SSA. Keeney asked what proportion of SSA income comes from residential properties versus commercial. Rozak did not know the exact breakout but said that although the number of condo PINs within the SSA has been increasing, most of the money is derived from commercial properties.

Uptown United Fundraiser with Uptown Business Partners is coming up on Wednesday, October 7, at the Saddle & Cycle Club. Call or visit the website for details.

Dog Poop Bags. Some of the dog bag dispensers have disappeared. There was a suggestion that Target might pay for the bags if we put their logo on them.

Community Garden. Joyce Dugan reported that there had been a dedication of the community garden on the 4600 block of north Winthrop on 9/12. The soil has been remediated and recycled bricks were used to make paths. The garden honors the memory and spirit of the tightknit African-American community that developed on that block as a result of restricted covenants in pre-World War II Uptown.

Uptown Theater. Jam Productions is still looking for money to rehab the Theatre.

VII. Adjournment: Preis moved to adjourn, Haywood seconded, and it was passed unanimously.