



**Uptown Special Service Area (SSA#34)
Advisory Commission Meeting
October 20, 2009, 3:30 pm
Combined Insurance, 1st Fl., 5050 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL**

Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Terry Tuohy (Chair), Margaret Haywood (Secretary), David Rettker (Treasurer), Kelly Cheng, Noreen Keeney, Chip Long, Jenny Martin

Commissioners Absent:

Steve Milford (Vice Chair), Tom Cameron, Marco Morales, Warren Preis, Mitch Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Joyce Dugan, President/CEO, Uptown United
Wally Rozak, SSA #34 Administrator, Uptown United
Michael Harrington, Public Allies/Uptown United
Elisa Slezinska, DePaul University/Uptown United
Christie Hahn, Exec Dir., Uptown Business Partners
Jay Bomberg, Bomberg Property Management

Meeting called to order at 3:36 pm.

I. Public Input: None

II. Update on Litter Free Uptown Project/Public Allies:

Michael Harrington, Public Ally, gave a progress report on the project. There will be a program with several schools presenting creative projects on Nov. 19 at Truman College as part of America Recycles Day. Michaels has also coordinating composting training for several of the schools.

III. Review of Minutes: from the September 16, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously. Moved, Rettker, seconded J. Martin.

IV. Financial Update:

Rettker reported on the SSA's financial position. Rozak moved \$20,000 from the interest bearing account at American Metro Bank to the operating account at Bridgeview Bank. Unlike other SSAs, we will not have to take out a bridge loan to due to the late property tax due date this year. The 2nd installment of property taxes is due on December 1,

therefore the SSA should see those revenues start coming in by mid-November. Touhy observed that because the commission has been conservative with spending, there is money on hand to get through.

Rozak stated that Public Allies was able to provide a grant to Uptown United and the SSA in the amount of \$9,845 to cover part of the 10-month stipend for Michael Harrington. This will allow the SSA to both save money and help fund activities in support of the schools project.

Long asked about Balance Sheet clarifications.

V. Old Business:

Security Rebate

A draft of the Rebate guidelines was distributed. Jay Bomberg, chair of the Uptown Business Partners, noted that the program is of great interest to the area's businesses.

After some discussion around the draft guidelines, several features about the proposed program were determined:

- i. Program would only be open to properties within the SSA boundaries.
- ii. Program available also to condo and/or mixed use properties.
- iii. Reimbursement is only for the purchase of cameras that are pointed at the public way, not ones that are internal to the business or in private areas.
- iv. Public way cameras must hook into the OEMC Private Camera program to be eligible. Ongoing security costs are not eligible for reimbursement.
- v. 50% of the expense for public way camera up to \$1000.
- vi. The reimbursement will not include expenses prior to program application. (i.e. retroactive)
- vii. A pilot program can be conducted for several months beginning before the end of calendar 2009.

Rozak also noted that the SSA's program would include a wider pool of potential applicants than SBIF program. SBIF excludes uses such as taverns, liquor stores, franchises, etc.

A committee was formed to continue to work on details. Committee would include Long, Rettker, Bomberg, K. Cheng. Steve Milford will also be asked to participate. The committee will get info from OEMC and Chicago Police Department as to their preferred specs and to make sure that the hook-up to OEMC is not a prohibitive process for private camera owner. The committee will also discuss with OEMC and CPD their experience with variables such as: storage, video vs. still, etc. A meeting will be set up for the week of October 26 with OEMC staff and Officer Kwong from the 20th District.

Holiday Decorations.

Touhy gave recap of plans for twenty four inch plain evergreen wreaths for \$6.75 each. Wreaths will be decorated by community organizations and then displayed by businesses in the SSA. The wreaths cost \$6.75 each. Initial order will be 100 wreaths with the option to get more. Applications for businesses to get a wreath have been distributed. The plan is to work with Business Partners to host events around the neighborhood. The goal to have the decorated wreaths distributed to the businesses by November 23. If there are extra wreaths, we can distribute them to fill in gaps within the SSA.

Touhy said that we're also looking into purchasing generic banners to hang at certain key intersections. They cost \$75 each (not including installation) and can be stored & reused. The banner that said "Peace on Earth" was preferred by the Commissioners (Long moved, Haywood seconded, approved by voice vote).

Rozak suggested that some holiday banners could be purchased for Argyle Street in support of the Lunar New Year activities in January/February. This could be tied into a larger effort to develop a visual identity and marketing program in conjunction with Argyle stakeholders. Dugan noted that we would need to have a plan for Argyle Street in conjunction with stakeholders before embarking on additional banners.

VI. New Business:

November Meeting Date Added

Nov. 4, 2009, 3:30pm. Details of the security program will be finalized.

VII. Adjournment: Long moved to adjourn, Rettker seconded, and it was passed unanimously at 4:44pm.