

Advisory Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 4:30 pm
Sun Wah BBQ Restaurant, 5039-41 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL

Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Terry Touhy (President), Steve Milford (Vice Chair), Margaret Haywood (Secretary), David Rettker (Treasurer), Noreen Keeney, Kelly Cheng, Chip Long, Jenny Martin, Marco Morales

Commissioners Absent: Tom Cameron, Warren Preis, Mitch Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Wally Rozak, SSA #34 Administrator & Assistant Director, Uptown United
Sana Syal, Public Ally/Litter Free Uptown Schools Program

Meeting called to order at 4:34pm

I. Public Input: None

II. Public Allies/Schools Project Update

Sana Syal gave an update on the program. We have been continuing in relationship building with the schools within/near the SSA. Syal helped Uplift High School to secure recycling grant funding. She is conducting Waste Audits with Goudy & McCutcheon, and will have another at the end of year to measure improvement. Syal is looking to plan an Earth Month event in April for schools in conjunction with Truman College.

III. Review of Minutes: Minutes from November 2010 meetings were approved unanimously. Corrections on motions to be incorporated. Moved Martin, seconded Milford.

IV. Distribution of Draft Year-End Financials

It's not clear yet whether tax receipts from the second installment of 2009 are at anticipated levels due to the later than usual December due date. Rozak reminded everyone that the tax year 2010 1st installment due date was extended by State law from March 1 to April 1 only for this year. Like last year, the 1st installment is 55% of the prior year's total tax paid.

V. Calendar of 2011 Commission Meetings:

Based around timetable of submissions required by the City of Chicago:

Weds Feb 23, Weds March 30, Weds Apr 27, Wed July 13, Wed Sept 28, Wed Oct 26

VI. Administrator Updates & Workplan Projects

- Vietnamese Association of Illinois parking lot

The lot has fully reopened under the management of LAZ Parking.

-Security Rebates

Two applications are in process (ICA and SEAC) There are still some prospects. We should promote more February & March as we get closer to warmer weather

-Wreath Program/Holiday Decorations

About the same number of wreaths were distributed as last year. Businesses were given the option of keeping their wreath(s) or having them collected.
For 2011, we will look at revisiting decorations on the streetpoles as well as wreaths.

-FOIA Request

In December the City's Community Development Department received a Freedom of Information Act (or FOIA) request from the Better Government Association (BGA) for info from ALL of the SSAs in the City of Chicago. We supplied information on expenditures & vendors to the City as requested.

-Other Updates

Election Debris - All candidates are being notified that Cleanslate will be removing signs on public way or posted to vacant properties.

Dog Debris - Our existing vendor for dispensers went out of business and our bag supplier no longer carries the 8" bags (a non-standard size). Rozak will look at new vendors.

-Solar Trash Compacting Receptacles

Rozak would like to work w/ Streets & Sanitation and Cleanslate to add these in at the appropriate locations. We will ask a Big Belly representative to present at a future meeting.

-Advertising

Rozak asked for approval for up to \$1,000 to use for co-operative advertising in an upcoming Uptown-focused issue of TimeOut Chicago. Motion by Milford, Haywood seconded, approved unanimously.

-Powerwashing of Sidewalks

Rozak will develop RFPs for whole & partial service spread over two-three years.

-Maintenance of streetscape planters/public way trees

SSA#34 will assume responsibility for planters one year after initial planting (i.e. Sept 2011). Rozak is enrolled in a Saturday course through Openlands for Urban Gardens that will help us with trees, parkways, planters, and the community garden.

-Kiosks/Wayfinding Signage

Discussion of developing info kiosks & wayfinding signs. Rozak cited the ones installed in the Lakeview SSA as an example & shared info learned from that SSA's experiences.

Group also discussed the banner program use of permanent streetpole signs.

-Argyle Street initiatives

Commission discussed assumption of ongoing maintenance of identifier/gateway feature at the Argyle El station and support of marketing initiatives & business promotion events based around the Argyle business district.

VII. Old Business: None.

VIII. New Business:

Rozak noted that Business Partners & Uptown United will be hosting a Candidate Forum & Luncheon with the many aldermanic candidates for Wards 46 and 48. The event will be February 8 at Furama Restaurant. Most candidates from 46 and two from the 48th will be there.

Lunar New Year parade will take place on February 5, 2011

IX. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Keeney, seconded by Rettker, approved unanimously at 5:33pm.

Minutes approved at February xx, 2011 meeting.