



**Advisory Commission Meeting
Wednesday, February 23, 2011
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), Tom Cameron, Kelly Cheng, Chip Long, Jenny Martin, Warren Preis

Commissioners Absent: Noreen Keeney, Marco Morales, Mitch Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Wally Rozak, SSA #34 Administrator & Assistant Director, Uptown United
Alyssa Berman-Cutler, Pres/CEO, Uptown United
Sana Syal, Public Ally/Litter Free Uptown Schools Program

Meeting called to order at 4:37pm

I. Public Input: None

II. Review of Minutes

Minutes from January 2011 meeting were approved unanimously. Moved Cheng, 2nded Rettker.

III. Distribution of Financials

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.

We will need to set up a Finance committee in March to draft a 2012 budget & workplan for consideration March meeting. Draft 2011 budget due on April 1, final will be reviewed in July for August submission.

IV. Review of Bids for 2010 Audit

After some discussion, motion to accept the lowest bid, received from Eilts & Associates, for 2010 audit by Cameron, seconded Preis. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

V. Administrator Updates & Workplan Projects

-Sidewalk Powerwashing & Solar Compacting Receptacle Presentation

Some discussion of the value of powerwashing for the current year. A committee meeting to address powerwashing & solar compactors with Kelly, Steve, and Chip set for 3/7.

-Argyle Street initiatives

+Streetscape Feature - SSA was asked to assume maintenance for streetscape identifier at Argyle El overpass. Rozak reviewed info on estimated costs for regular maintenance

received from Chicago Dept. of Transportation (cleaning, lighting). Additional discussion re: liability, scope of maintenance, contracting. Rozak to set up meeting with CDOT reps, Commissioners Rettker & Cameron, and 48th Ward to address these issues.

+Restaurant Crawl - Discussion of joint effort later in 2011 with Uptown Business Partners to plan event that can engage Argyle restaurants beyond Chamber members. United staff will advise on expense as event planning proceeds.

+Vacancies & Development Opportunities - Berman-Cutler talked about stepping up activity to address vacancies and redevelopment opportunities. The immediate project to undertake is development of a printed/electronic brochure for distribution to businesses, developers. Additional discussion of other ideas like sponsored broker events. Staff encouraged to come back with specific costs, proposals.

-Other Updates

Election Debris - Candidates were notified that Cleanslate crew were removing signs on public way or posted to vacant properties with the exception of the final weekend before the Feb. 22 elections.

VI. Public Allies/Schools Project Update

Sana Syal gave an update on the program. She is meeting weekly with two schools. with the schools within/near the SSA. Syal has been working with schools and reps from Truman on the Earth Month event on April 8 to be held at Truman College.

Rozak & Berman-Cutler also discussed the Public Ally proposal for 2011-12. With the school program established through the Public Ally position, that scope can be expanded to include business greening initiatives that will help existing businesses save on costs, become more efficient, better use grant programs, etc.

VII. Old Business:

Rozak passed around a copy of the February 17-23 Uptown issue of *Time Out Chicago* magazine. The co-op ad featuring Uptown businesses was underwritten by the SSA.

VIII. New Business:

Touhy noted the opening of the outdoor Farmers Market on June 23 at Weiss Hospital. Weiss has arranged for LINK and credit card acceptance this year. They will also provide shuttle to and from various area senior centers during the market.

IX. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Milford, seconded by Rettker, approved unanimously at 5:18pm.

Minutes approved at April 5, 2011 meeting.