



**Advisory Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2011
Sun Wah BBQ Restaurant
5039-41 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL**

Minutes

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Marco Morales, Mitch Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Wally Rozak, SSA #34 Administrator & Assistant Director, Uptown United

Alyssa Berman-Cutler, President/CEO, Uptown United

Kevin Brunke, Intern, Uptown United

Paula Barrington, Executive Director, Business Partners, Chamber for Uptown

Josh Reitman, Bridgeview Bank Uptown, member of the public & Commissioner nominee SSA#34

Catherine Schelter, Schelter Realty, member of the public

Meeting called to order at 4:34pm

- I. Public Input:** Cathy Schelter introduced herself and discussed her interest in local public safety issues. It was suggested that she contact CAPS, the alderman's office and area block clubs.
- II. Review of Minutes**
Minutes from April 27, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously. Moved Long, seconded Cameron.
- III. Review of Financials & 2012 Workplan/Budget, 2011 Mid-Year Assessment**
VOTE: On approval of Workplan/Budget
Rozak presented the financials and workplan for FY12. He explained that the SSA is below the legal cap on how much we can tax. Motion to accept Uptown United as sole service provider for 2012, budget, and workplan for 2012, passed unanimously; Cheng moved; Rettker seconded.

VOTE: On approval of Mid-Year Assessment
Rozak then presented the mid-year assessment of the SSA's progress toward FY11 goals. Two projects are still being researched, everything else is on track. Preis moved to accept the assessment, which was seconded by Milford. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote; Preis moved; Milford seconded.
- IV. Administrator Updates & Workplan Projects**
 - Community Portal Website Development**
Berman-Cutler reported that phase I on the development of the website is almost finished. The consultants on the project, Lumity have been very good. Uptown United staff are now writing the text for the site, including improving on the history of the neighborhood.
 - Argyle Street Identifier**

There is no new info from CDOT rep as to anticipated expenses for upkeep and maintenance contracts. Staff will follow up with new Alderman Harry Osterman.

-Discussion of Argyle Fest

Both Aldermen are interested to exploring an Argyle Street Festival. Barrington presented a plan from Business Partners for an event on Argyle Street in October to celebrate Asian heritage. It will involve shutting down the street, sidewalk sales, arts and theater. They are getting bids from an event management company. Projected cost for the event will be \$15,000. They hope to cover costs from sponsorships, the alderman's office and the SSA. Cheng stated that the business owners will probably prefer a Sunday for the event while customers will prefer Saturday.

-Business Attraction Materials

Berman-Cutler handed out a mock-up of the material that is meant for distribution to realtors and business who may be considering locating in Uptown. 1,000 pieces will be printed for \$500. The printer is doing the graphic design work for free.

-Security System Rebate

One application is done- 915 W. Wilson Ave. There are two others in the works and there have been more inquiries. The security rebate committee agreed to change one of the requirements for the program, no longer requiring businesses to link their cameras into the Office of Emergency Management, due to expense. It will simply be required that they register through the Chicago PLAN program, so that the Chicago Police Department is aware of cameras in the area that can provide useful source for investigations.

-Beautification Projects

Initial research on planters costs of \$800 to \$1,200 per planter. Maintenance & watering costs depends upon number of planters & frequency of plantings per year. Martin asked a question about whether there would be mulching of the tree pits in the SSA. Rozak is looking for sources for free mulch.

V. Public Allies/Schools Project Update

Sana Syal completed her year as a Public Ally at the end of June. She left a compilation of materials, lessons learned, etc for next year's Ally. Jessica Klinge, will be starting this fall. She is a second year Public Ally who served last year for a social service organization but prefers working on environmental issues. The schools have been very pleased with the work that we had done, helping them boost their in-house recycling programs and environmental education.

VI. Old Business:

-Nomination Committee

There are currently: Josh Reitman, employed with Bridgeview Bank; and Rebecca Creighton of Illinois Action for Children. There are other potential candidates. Now with new Aldermen in place, we will work with them to help encourage specific nominees.

VII. New Business:

-A meeting was added to the schedule. The next SSA Commission meeting will be Wednesday, August 10, 4:30pm, at Sun Wah BBQ.

-All are invited to the Windy City Ribfest in Uptown this weekend.

-Cheng noted problems with deterioration of concrete CTA tracks on the 5000 block of Argyle.

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Long, seconded by Milford, approved unanimously at 5:27pm.

Minutes approved at August 10, 2011 meeting.