



SSA #18 COMMISSION MINUTES – February 5, 2020
Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Jim Ludwig called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and the following Commissioners were in attendance: Jim Ludwig, Dave Gassman, Kearby Kaiser, Tim Klump, Randy Shingledecker, Mike Raffety, and Cindy Rudman. Commissioners awaiting city approval Elizabeth Fuld and Ryan Basile.

Northalsted Treasurer Lake Alen. Also in attendance Northalsted Executive Director Kevin Richards and Director of Operations Eric Santiago.

Public attendance: Jake Wittrock

2. Approval of the December 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Mike Raffety

SECONDED by Tim Klump

to approve the minutes from the December 4th Commission Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Finance Update

Lake Alen, the Northalsted Treasurer, provides an update on the Bank of America checking account fraud investigation. We anticipate all funds to be returned to Northalsted once the investigation is complete. The Chicago Police Department and the Georgia State Police are working on the criminal case. We have opened a new SSA checking account with the Positive Pay security feature added as an additional layer of security.

MOTION by Mike Raffety

SECONDED by Tim Klump

To approve Eilts and Associates to complete our 2019 Audit.

MOTION CARRIED.

The SSA Audit will be presented at the April 1st SSA Commission meeting. Lake will also attend this meeting to provide additional insight on NBA and SSA expenses.

4. SSA Programs Update

The Broadway/Clarendon Committee met on January 8th to hear two presentations for transforming the traffic triangle and awarded the contract to Teska Associates. This committee will meet again on February 24th with the contractor to work on the visioning process for this space.

Eric provides an update on the custom bike racks. The racks have been ordered and we anticipate delivery will take place sometime in April. Once delivered we will work with CDOT to complete the installation.

The commission asks if any event will take place to celebrate the new bike racks. Eric will work the Development Committee and public relations specialist to see what media can be generated for this unveiling during the spring.

Mike reports that he will be attending a meeting at City Hall for his commissioner approval. Eric reports that commissioner renewals for the new year are now out and that he will be contacting commissioners needing to complete their renewals.

5. Northalsted Business Alliance Update

Kevin invites all commissioners to attend our Northalsted Diversity and Inclusion Workshop on Gender being lead by the Praxis Group on February 7th.

Kevin provides an update on our upcoming Northalsted Chill Out Weekend which is taking place on February 8-9. On Saturday the Soup and Sip event will take place with 25 businesses participating. This event expands on the success of previous years Soup Walk. This year participants will pay a fee to participate, two ticketing options are available which includes a food tasting tour or the full tour that includes both food and liquor tasting locations.

Cindy expresses concerns that in previous years this a family focused event for all ages. By adding the liquor tasting and the higher price point it can limit families from doing this event.

On Sunday is the Ice Follies event which is an LGBTQ+ ice skating party at Gallagher Way next to Wrigley Field. This event will feature performances by ice skating drag queens, live music, and an after party event at The North End. A trolley will operate during the event connecting Boystown to Wrigley Field.

Kevin states that we are currently working with a contractor on improving our website search engine optimization (SEO). An RFP was distributed for this SEO project and was awarded to a recommended company based in Canada. Cindy inquires about the selection process and if local companies were considered. Kevin states the company selected provided us with the best options. Local companies were interviewed but could not match the services offered from the winning contractor.

Kevin also states that we will be working on developing original content creation to add stories to our website and media outlets.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business,

**It was MOVED by Cindy Rudman
and SECONDED Tim Klump
to adjourn the meeting at 10:13 am.
MOTION CARRIED.**

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 1st at the Center on Halsted.