



SSA #18 COMMISSION MINUTES – June 17, 2020
Video Conference

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Jim Ludwig called the meeting to order at 9:08 am and the following Commissioners were in attendance: Jim Ludwig, Kearby Kaiser, Mike Raffety, Cindy Rudman and Elizabeth Fuld. Not in attendance Dave Gassman and Tim Klump.

Auditor Joy Coombes from Eilts and Associates. Also in attendance for the Northalsted Business Alliance: President Ramesh Ariyanayakam, Treasurer and Acting Executive Director Lake Alen, and Director of Operations Eric Santiago.

Public attendance: Jake Wittrich from Block Club Chicago.

2. SSA Program Update

Eric reported that CleanStreet is currently providing cleaning services 5 days a week through Phase 3 of the City of Chicago reopening plan. Once we enter into Phase 4 we will resume daily cleanings, 7 days a week.

The rainbow crosswalks were washed for the first time of the summer season on June 16th. The next cleaning will take place June 29-July 1 focusing on all sidewalks within the SSA boundaries and the crosswalks.

The Amazing For All art sculpture located at Halsted and Newport has been repaired and repainted with a new expanded 13 striped rainbow featuring the colors of black and brown as well as light blue, pink and white from the Transgender Flag.

The flag street pole banners will be replaced with 3 new designs featuring the Rainbow Flag (6 Stripes), Rainbow Flag (8 Stripes with Black and Brown), and the Transgender Flag. These will be updated prior to Pride Fest Weekend.

3. 2019 Audit Update

Joy, our auditor from Eilts and Associates presented the updated 2019 Audit.

From the audit an additional \$19,000 was found in previously unreported missing funds from the Bank of America checking account fraud. This increases the carry over from 2019 to \$51,590. The Bank America account is closed and the bank will issue us a check for these

funds. Lake stated that Positive Pay has been added to our checking account as an additional security measure.

MOTION by Mike Raffety to approve the presented updated 2019 SSA Audit.
SECOND by Cindy Rudman.
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of the May 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Cindy Rudman to approve the minutes from the May 20th SSA Commission Meeting.
SECONDED by Mike Raffety.
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Renewals and Recruitment

Eric stated recruitment efforts are underway and that a local business who has expressed interest in being more involved in the organization will be contacted. Ramesh stated that he will reach out to the non-profit organizations to see if either are interested in serving on the commission.

6. Northalsted Update

Ramesh reported that the Northalsted Business Alliance created an Emergency Board Up Window Rebate program for member businesses of \$250 per storefront (25 feet). Applications for this rebate program have been distributed and so far 3 businesses have applied. Lake stated that the average cost for a single storefront for window board up services is around \$1,000-\$1,400. Approximately 35 businesses with our SSA boundaries did board up their windows in June.

Ramesh reported that our previous plans to hold a Chicago Pride Fest/Market Days street festival over Labor Day weekend on September 5-6 have been cancelled. We will be announcing our 2021 festival dates soon.

Ramesh reported that the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce (LFCC) has been closing a portion of their district on Broadway from Surf to Belmont as part of a test program from the City of Chicago for expanded outdoor dining. Expenses to close down the street include barricades, security and staffing. The Northalsted Board has been looking at plans to close down side streets for expanded space, however they are waiting for this test program to be tested and expanded to other community areas within the city.

Ramesh reported that Virtual Pride Fest will take place this weekend June 20-21 from 7pm to 9pm each night.

Organizers from Black Lives Matter are planning a march on Sunday, June 28th that will follow the Pride Parade route from Uptown through Boystown and Lakeview. The Chicago Pride Parade was previously cancelled due to COVID-19. Details about the March for Black Lives Matter on Pride Sunday will be shared with our businesses as they are made available.

7. Rebate Programs

Eric reported that a few applications have been received so far and that we will soon start to process these. Kearby and Cindy will review applications for approval. Lake stated that businesses may be focused on reopening efforts at the moment which could be a reason as to why there has not been a rush of applicants at once. Northalsted staff will work to distribute rebate applications and information to all businesses within the SSA.

Jim suggested the creation of a new rebate program that could assist businesses with the added costs associated with additional staffing to enforce social distancing. A new program will be developed to address the call for additional staffing in response to COVID-19 to be shared in advance of our next SSA Commission Meeting.

It is requested the Security Camera rebate program be updated to encourage increased participation.

MOTION by Kearby Kaiser to update the Security Rebate program to allow businesses the opportunity to apply annually and to submit applications for work previously completed.

SECOND by Cindy Rudman.

MOTION CARRIED.

Application and guidelines for the SSA funded Emergency Window Board Up Rebate program were shared with the commission.

MOTION by Mike Raffety to approve the SSA Emergency Window Board Up Rebate Program.

SECOND by Kearby Kaiser.

MOTION CARRIED.

8. 2021 Budget

Lake presented the proposed 2021 draft SSA budget. This budget calls for a reduction under Customer Attraction and increases to Public Way Aesthetics and SSA Management. The reduction in Customer Attraction calls for the removal of SSA sponsorship for our two large summer festivals. The increase in SSA Management reflects the new added costs associated with our increased office and storage space.

The board will be working on a long term staffing plan for the organization. The SSA budget for staffing will remain the same for the time being.

We are waiting on the city to provide us with our updated EAV in order to calculate the final budget. The budget will be presented for approval at our next meeting in July.

9. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business,

MOVED by Mike Raffety to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 am.

SECOND Kearby Kaiser.

MOTION CARRIED.

Next meeting will be held on July 8th.