



SSA #18 COMMISSION MINUTES – April 14, 2021
Video Conference

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commissioner Jim Ludwig called the meeting to order at 9:04 am and the following Commissioners were in attendance: Jim Ludwig, Elizabeth Fuld, Kearby Kaiser, Mike Raffety, and Cindy Rudman, and Dave Gassman.

Not in attendance: Tim Klump

Also in attendance Joy Coombes, SSA Auditor from Elits and Associates. From the Northalsted Business Alliance: President Ramesh Ariyanayakam, Treasurer and Acting Executive Director Lake Alen, Business Development Coordinator Robert Morvay and SSA Operations Consultant Eric Santiago.

Members from the public:

Jake Writrock, Edwin Martinez, Allan O'Brien

Pursuant to City of Chicago Open Meeting Act participation in today's meeting is conducted both in person or via videoconference.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Mike Raffety to approve the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes

SECOND by Kearby Kaiser

MOTION CARRIED.

3. Public Comment

No public comment

4. SSA Audit

Presentation of the 2020 Audit from Joy from Elits and Associates.

Joy presents the finding of her 2020 Audit and states the amount our SSA bank account at the end of 2020 was \$37,222. We are still due income from the city, which she is working with Mark Roschen to resolve. Joy is also still working on resolving our previous Bank of America checking account fraud with Lake and the return of \$19,000. Once the city completes their deposit and Bank of America completes their deposit we are estimating a carry over of around \$47,000 from 2020 to the 2021 budget.

Joy reports that she found two areas where we went over budget which were Sustainability and Public Places and also Safety Programs which she has reported in her findings.

Discussion over how to proceed with 2020 budget modifications takes place.

MOTION by Kearby Kaiser to table discussion of the 2020 Audit for a future meeting.

SECOND by Dave Gassman.

Discussion tabled.

MOTION by Kearby Kaiser to hold a special SSA Commission video conference meeting on Wednesday, April 21st from 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM.

SECOND by Dave Gassman.

MOTION CARRIED.

Joy leaves the meeting.

5. Northalsted Update

Ramesh reports that the Northalsted Board will be meeting on April 15th to discuss the future of our summer events. The plan is to proceed with Northalsted Market Days taking place on 3 days over August 6-8.

Chicago Pride Fest will not be held in June but will look to hold an event Labor Day Weekend on 3 days over September 4-6. Chicago Pride Fest will not coincide with the Chicago Pride Parade.

Ramesh states that at this time the City of Chicago is not issuing permits for these events and that only the initial planning will begin as we wait for official city approval.

Ramesh reports that Northalsted has been discussing summer security concerns with the 19th District Chicago Police Department. Northalsted will not be hiring a private

security team this summer but is looking at alternative programs such as lighting enhancements, security cameras that monitor the public way, community ambassadors, and additional resources for late night businesses such as rebates or group purchasing programs. The biggest area of concern for our community is the hour before and after the bars let out on Friday night 1am - 3 am and Saturday night 2 am - 4 am as people leave our businesses.

Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce will also be removing their private security team this summer and adjusting to alternative formats.

Kearby states that the Chicago Loop Alliance has a successful Ambassador Program in place, however those programs require finding the right mix of people for staffing. SSA funding should be used on security infrastructure upgrades such as cameras and lights as opposed to staffing costs.

Allan expresses concerns that ambassadors may not be as effective in deterring crime as security officers. Allan also reports that his business The Men's Room will soon be opening at their new location located south of Sidetrack. Lake reports that no new plans have been announced for the old The Men's Room space next to Chicago Male Salon.

Robert reports that Same Day Health is currently offering vaccines at a pop up site in the Fabulous Parking Lot. AHF Pharmacy located in Out of Closet and also Howard Brown Health Center are offering vaccinations within our district. The old Leigh Galley space has opened as a new mental health clinic. Smylie Brothers Brewery will be opening their second location next to Starbucks on Broadway. The first location is located in Downtown Evanston. Broadway Financial Services has closed their location 3755 N. Halsted Street.

6. Commission Update

Eric invites all commissioners to attend the SSA Forum taking place on Wednesday, April 21st at 9:30 AM. This is an optional virtual event for commissioners to attend.

7. SSA Programs Updates

Spring landscaping installation has begun and will be completed by the end of this week.

Our electrician at Acorn Electric has retired and we have issued an RFP for a new electrician to work on the pylons lighting. Once a contactor has been found we will replace light bulbs within the pylons before summer begins.

RFP has also been issued for sidewalk and crosswalk power washing services. Our first power washing of the season is set for mid May.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business,

MOVED by Dave Gassman

SECOND Kearby Kaiser

MOTION CARRIED.

Meeting ends at 11:09 AM

Next special SSA meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, April 21 at 9:00 AM, meeting to not exceed 30 minutes.