



**SSA #18 COMMISSION MINUTES – September 14th, 2022**  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Commissioners Present (7): Jim Ludwig (Chairperson), Allan O'Brien, Carlton Daniels, Dave Gassman, Kearby Kaiser, and Mike Raffety**

**Commissioners Absent (0):**

**SSP Attendees (2): Kevin Barbeau, Robert Morvay**

**Public Attendees (1): Micah Hilgendorf**

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**1. Call to Order**

***NOTE: Chairperson Jim Ludwig called the September SSA #18 Commission Meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.***

***NOTE: A quorum of SSA Commissioners was present.***

**2. Public Comment Period**

Micah Hilgendorf, owner of The North End and Lucky Horseshoe Lounge as well as Northalsted Business Alliance Board Secretary, is happy to be here and listen.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

***NOTE: Mike Raffety MOVED TO APPROVE the July 13th SSA #18 Commission Meeting Minutes. SECONDED by Kearby Kaiser. All in Favor. The motion PASSED.***

**4. Northalsted Update**

Kevin Barbeau shares that Market Days attendance was lower than anticipated for a variety of reasons including the monkeypox health crisis and severe weather conditions/predictions. The organization's running of the event went as anticipated despite the low attendance. We have polled for responses to the event and will use them to inform. The financial audit has not yet been performed so Northalsted doesn't have any exact numbers, but at the very least we know that projected gate revenue was not met. Pride Fest did better than projections, so Northalsted Business Alliance is projecting a balance out to a positive.

Jim Ludwig recommends that Northalsted reach out to the Aldermanic offices for complaints and public comments, and Kevin says that we did do that and received no complaints of merit.

Mike Raffety says the drink prices were much higher than normal and it caused people to not buy drinks. Micah says we raised the prices to see what we could do.

**NOTE: Carlton Daniels joined the meeting at 1:14 p.m.**

Mike asks if there were police and health issues. Kevin replies that heat exhaustion was a massive issue, including the event manager being hospitalized on Saturday morning. There was also an incident where an individual sprayed pepper spray in a crowd which caused some treatment on site.

Jim requests that Northalsted Business Alliance reach out to the Aldermen and Commissioners for a letter from their offices for their feedback regarding the festivals. Kevin says he will.

Mike asks Northalsted Business Alliance to check to see if there's a major discrepancy in price from prior years due to some kind of police requiring an ever-present on-site ambulance. Kevin and Robert are unclear if this is the case and will check while completing the audit.

**5. SSA Program Update**

Aldermanic Retirements Kevin reports that the 44th and 46th Ward Aldermen are retiring at the end of their term, and Northalsted Business Alliance is planning to host debates within our area once we find out more information regarding these candidates. Mike says that the LVCC also does this.

Commissioner Vacancy Update Robert reports that Marco Vargas from Splash is still in the process of filling out his application, but is taking a long time to fill out some paperwork. A property owner named JinSoo Daniel Huh looked into filling out an application, but Robert had a conversation with him and he is outside of the SSA jurisdiction.

Tax Collection Delay Update Kevin shares that we don't actually have any update on the delay update. Municipalities outside of Chicago within Cook County are creating contingency funds, but that does not impact districts within the city. Kevin and Robert have been chopping down the budget to only the needs, such as street maintenance and landscaping.

SSA Officer Elections Update Robert shares that he and Kevin looked into the bylaws following the conversation at the previous meeting about uncertainties regarding term limits possibly necessitating replacing Jim as Chairperson. While they found that there are no term limits, there does need to be an annual vote electing a Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Mike suggests that a co-chairperson would be very similar to Jim's position if he were to be absent for any reason. Kevin says he thinks that the Secretary/Treasurer position would lie more on the Treasurer side, with additional checks and balances from a member of the commissioner.

Kearby doesn't want to be Treasurer, and asks what Kevin believes the Treasurer would do. Kevin replies that the Treasurer would check monthly bank statements and once-overs regarding the budget to ensure that it's up to the commissioner's standards. Kearby believes that this would be important, but still does not want to take the role, preferring Co-Chairperson.

Jim thinks we could make a motion at this meeting if we wanted to. Allan thinks there should be a list of roles and responsibilities shown before we make any decisions, and Kevin pulls up the bylaws for said list and reveals the wording for the roles and responsibilities within:

*"The Chairman shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and perform all the usual functions of such an office.*

*The Co-Chairman shall act in place of the Chairman in the absence or inability of the Chairman to perform his or her duties.*

*The Secretary/Treasurer shall maintain all books and records, including those relative to income and expenses, publish minutes of all Commission meetings, and shall be responsible for the preparation of the budget and implementation of all matters relating to the levying of the tax rate for the service area."*

**NOTE: Elizabeth Fuld MOVED to elect Jim Ludwig as Chairman, Kearby Kaiser as Co-Chairman, and Mike Raffety as Secretary/Treasurer. Dave Gassman seconds. All approve. MOTION CARRIES.**

We Will Chicago Robert introduces Mayor Lightfoot's WeWillChicago citywide planning process which is intended to be led by neighborhood stakeholders, artists, community partners, and city agencies based on principles of equity with acknowledgement of the past to fix the systemic issues in our system. There are 7 core pillars to the plan, Arts & Culture, Civic & Community Engagement, Economic Development, Environment, Climate & Energy, Housing & Neighborhoods, Lifelong Learning, Public Health & Safety, Transportation & Infrastructure. Robert and Mike attended an informational meeting regarding the plan but it did not go in-depth into the details, and since the plan is around 150 pages long they have not read in full either. The city is asking SSAs to promote the plan and request polling on its contents from the public as well as to read it themselves and provide feedback.

Mike doesn't think the plan will include much that's actionable on the SSA's front based on the meeting, and since there were few attendees at the meeting he doesn't think it will get much traction. Dave suggestions all actionable items are things the SSA does already. Before the next meeting, Robert will read the plan and give takeaways on anything the SSA may be responsible for.

## **6. Contractor Update**

Pressure Washing RFP Robert presents an updated RFP for Pressure Washing services to send out upon approval.

**NOTE: Kearby Kaiser MOVED to approve the Pressure Washing RFP as presented. Mike Raffety seconds. All approve. MOTION CARRIES.**

Kearby says we should offer sponsorship opportunities at events to Pressure Washing contractors.

Other RFPs Kevin shares that he wants to get into a process of sending out new RFPs for all of our services once every three years to make sure we're on top of services. All agree that it's a good process.

Reconstitution RFP As of yet, Robert reports that there have been no responses to the RFP sent out following July's meeting, but the due date is in December so this is no cause for alarm. He'll send out reminders to the firms he initially contacted.

## **6. Rebates**

Rebate Applications Robert presents the Security Rebates applications for ProgressBar, 3526 N Halsted Condominium Association, and Drew's on Halsted.

ProgressBar and 3526 N Halsted Condominium Association's applications are recommended for approval.

Kearby thinks that Mike could help better guide rebate applicants going forward since his Condominium Association application was very nice.

Looking at the Drew's on Halsted application, Kearby found its submitted purchases to not cover the purpose of the rebate, which is enhancing streetwide security, but rather focused on enhancing security for Drew's on Halsted specifically. Kearby wants to ensure that they're educated as to how it can be readjusted, and that the rejection of the application isn't a negative experience for Drew's. He doesn't recommend approving the rebate at this time.

**NOTE: Kearby Kaiser MOVED to approve the committee's recommendations for rebates. Elizabeth Fuld seconds. Mike Raffety abstains from the vote, and all others approve. MOTION CARRIES.**

## **7. New/Old Business**

Pride Parade Review While we did not give any money to the pride parade this year, Mike recommended we discuss the parade as a commission anyway.

Dave asks if there's been any traction in moving the parade to the Loop, and Mike says the Aldermen have been historically opposed to moving the parade despite some complaints regarding the parade/security after the parade. Jim suggests we address a letter in support of the parade staying in the neighborhood, and Kevin recommends including Chicago Cultural Affairs Department (DCASE) in this letter. Mike recommends that increased security following the parade should be emphasized in the letter.

Dave recommends the SSA funding private security following the parade, and while Kevin says we had 10 security officers on the street from Northalsted's private security firm, Dave says we'd need far more than that. Micah says that the police department is limited under current policy. Allan notes that after the parade police limit access to the street. Mike notes that there's nothing you can do about members of the public accessing the public way. Mike recommends asking other city's parade officials as to what they do regarding security following the parade. Allan says we need to find a way to make hanging out on the street following the parade uncomfortable. Jim thinks we could achieve deterrence with temporary, very bright lighting in key problem areas, and this could be a reasonable spend if we ask SEM, following for the commander's approval. Mike recollects an experience post-parade a few years ago where mounted officers pushed people by the side after the parade, and Kevin remarks that the per a recent conversation that commissioner doesn't like delaying mounts at night.

Additional Market Days Discussion Allan remarks that he sold a lot of advance donation express wristbands at Men's Room, and Robert says that we sold a lot of them in total. Allan recommends having a VIP area for wristband holders, potentially inside.

Reconstitution The first step in the Reconstitution is a feasibility study that the Northalsted office is handling. Mike requests that they share this file, and Robert says he will. Jim asks for a price estimation, and Kevin thinks it could end up under \$40,000 as we are not looking to expand.

## **8. Adjournment**

**NOTE: Dave Gassman MOVED TO ADJOURN the September 14th, 2022 SSA #18 Commission meeting. Carlton Daniels SECONDED. All in favor. The motion PASSED.**

**NOTE: The September 14th, 2022 SSA #18 Commission Meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.**

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The next scheduled SSA #18 Commission meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 12th, 1:00pm** at Center on Halsted (3656 N. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60657).