



SSA 54 Commission Meeting
New 400 Theater Conference Room
6740 N Sheridan Rd
Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 8:30 am

Present: Jennifer Clark, Commissioner; Tony Fox, Commissioner; Heather Hill, Commissioner; Sara Lukens, Commissioner; Sandi Price, RPBA Staff; Cindy Plante, RPBA Staff

Absent: Chris Bell, Commissioner

1. **Welcome** – Heather Hill called the meeting to order at 8:30, welcomed new commissioner Sara
2. **Community and Public Input** – there was no community/public input
3. **Approval of July 11 and September 12, 2019 Minutes** – Tony Fox moved approval; Heather Seconded. Approved 3-0.
4. **January-September 2019 Financials** – Sara moved approval, Tony Seconded. Approved 4-0.

Tony asked about how much money is actually in the bank; Sara asked for clarification on how carryover works. Sandi said that based on these financials, the total is about \$148,000. The money doesn't go away or revert back to the City at the end of the budget year, but there's a rule that only 25% of the annual budget can be carryover from a previous year. SSA54 is one of the City's smallest in terms of annual budget/levy, and 2020 includes funding for reconstitution.

5. **Open/Closed businesses**

- Tai Chi Bubble Tea opened on 10/24/19 (fmr. Rogers Pier space)
- Royal Coffee closed; property owner is asking \$4,000/mo in rent for the space.

6. **Old Business**

- **Commissioner Recruitment** – Cindy has been in contact with Nicole at Hampton Inn and had invited her to attend today's meeting but hasn't heard back.
- **Bella Wrap Update** – Cindy reported that documentation has been submitted to Vanessa at CDOT and we're waiting on approval, but given the weather the earliest we could install will probably be spring 2020.

7. **New Business** –

- **2020 Meeting Dates** – Will stick to 3rd Thursday, every other month, with first meeting January 16, 2020. New meeting location: Lakeshore Partners Space at Loyola – 6443 Sheridan Rd. (between Chi Town Magpie & Third Coast Comics)
- **Strategic Plan Review**
 - i. **Broadway/Devon/Sheridan intersection traffic**

The intersection came up in the strategic plan as an area in need of improvement, but the SSA commissioners can't do much directly beyond advocating for intersection improvements, which will continue.

Jen Clark mentioned that there was funding approved but Ald. Osterman wanted to do more community meetings. Cindy & Sandi will bring this up in our upcoming meeting with Torrence from Ald. Hadden's office.

ii. District identity/cohesiveness

Tony raised the idea of pergola/monument type signage similar to what Old Town has, or a gateway sign like Bronzeville – large, visible markers that create a sense of place. Also asked about adding more Big Belly trash cans.

Heather asked what it would take to add power receptacles to light poles for holiday decorations.

Sandi said this is typically part of a larger streetscape renovation along with new sidewalks, curbs and landscaping. CDOT has a queue of these projects and they advance when federal funding becomes available. To get on that list, you need to have a streetscape plan. This could be eligible for TIF funding.

Landscaping for 2020 was discussed – Loyola no longer does plantings and maintenance in the planters and beds on Sheridan Rd. This might be something for the SSA to fund in the future, but will first require a count of how many planters and beds there are so that we can develop a scope of work to get estimates from contractors. Jen shared that Patch Landscaping was the contractor Loyola had used for this.

Tony asked about intersection art like what was done near the Loyola Campus. People were interested in exploring this further, potentially starting with the North/South crosswalks to avoid damage from construction and traffic. The group was open to using Loyola colors and suggested starting with the Granada Center driveway crosswalk since it's not technically a street and might be easier to implement quickly.

iii. Community Engagement

Commissioners discussed an interest in creating more of a social media/web presence, similar to what's been done on Howard Street and Devon Avenue.

iv. Placemaking Projects

The list in the strategic plan included banners, branding, & wayfinding signage as well as free wifi, a people spot, landscaping, bike parking, and traffic calming features as items to look into and pursue for placemaking in SSA 54. Banners have already been done. Commissioners briefly discussed a people spot, but concluded that it may not be worth prioritizing at this time based on the costs and logistics involved. Tony and others would like to set a goal of doing one big capital placemaking project each year.

Many of the placemaking projects commissioners are interested in would be part of the scope of a streetscape plan. Landscaping of the existing planters and beds would be something that might be able to be done in 2020.

v. Next Steps

Cindy will ask Vanessa at CDOT about streetscape during their next call about the Bella Wrap project. Staff can also start looking into landscaping.

Adjournment:

Heather moved to adjourn at 10:01. Approved 4-0.

- Next meeting – SSA Annual Meeting 9am December 12 at 8:30 am

*****Upcoming Commission #54 Meeting Dates*****

Next Meeting – SSA Annual Meeting: 9am December 12, 2019 at Teal Room 6956 N. Glenwood Ave.