



SSA Commissioners Community Meeting

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81407861002>

Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 ; Meeting ID: 814 0786 1002

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 2pm

Commissioners Present: Sara Lukens, Chris Bell, Jennifer Clark

Commissioners Absent: none

Others Present: Sandi Price & Cindy Plante, RPBA,  
Joy Coombes - Eilts & Assoc.

**1. Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:05

Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic the meeting is being recorded and held in a virtual format.

**2. Public comment**

There was no public comment

**3. Approve minutes from last meeting**

Chris moved approval of the February minutes; Sara seconded.

APPROVED Unanimously.

**4. Property tax delay**

Cindy shared an update with commissioners that 2nd installment property tax bills are being delayed - the bills that usually go out in August will be delayed to January of 2023, meaning that we won't be getting the expected property tax revenue on time. This puts us in a bind because SSA54 doesn't currently have any money in reserve.

Sara asked about what this means for lighting and landscaping.

Jennifer asked about the possibility of a line of credit.

Sandi says we currently have a lighting invoice that hasn't been paid yet because it exceeds the amount in the SSA54 bank account. RPBA has funding to float the SSA for the remainder of this year, including the landscape contract, but we wanted to let commissioners know so we can keep this in mind as we make spending decisions for the remainder of the year.

**5. Review & approval of annual audit**

Cindy introduced Joy Coombes to present the annual audit report.

Joy presented the audit report via screenshare.  
Jennifer moved to approve the audit, Chris seconded.  
APPROVED unanimously

**6. Funding request for 2022 Rogers Park Music Fest (f.k.a. Flatts & Sharpe music fest)**

Chris presented her funding request for the festival. Last year the SSA contributed \$4,500 in funding - the one-day event drew about 1,800 attendees. This year it will expand to 2 days, with a funding goal of \$10,000. She has applied for additional grants and sponsorships, with an eye toward further expansion of the festival to the lakefront in 2023.

Jennifer suggested involving Loyola's environmental science group to make the event zero waste.

Sara is enthusiastic about the event but concerned about the financial situation given the property tax delay.

Jennifer moved to commit to a minimum sponsorship of the Rogers Park Music Fest for \$1,500 with the possibility of funding up to a cap of \$5,000 if needed.

Sara seconded.

Chris abstained.

APPROVED - 2 yeas, 1 abstention

**7. Landscaping update**

Cindy shared that we have an RFP out for landscaping for all 4 SSA's for 2023. We are still using Brightview this year but have notified them about the issues we had last year regarding consistency of plantings around the district. There has been turnover on their end, which has made things difficult, but we do have a contract with them for April-November of 2022, with spring plantings expected in the next few weeks.

Sara asked about plant lists for spring, and why we're still using this vendor if there were problems last year. It was too late to make a change for 2022.

Cindy will reach out to the new account manager about spring plant lists.

**8. Preliminary 2023 Budget discussion**

Cindy asked commissioners if there's anything they want to add or scale back on as we prepare to draft the FY2023 budget.

Commissioners favor continuing to make funding available for events and expressed some concern about landscaping given that it's such a large portion of the budget and we weren't happy with it last year.

Cindy will have landscaping bids in by May 6 so they can be factored into next year's budget decisions.

**9. 2022 dates**

Cindy reminded commissioners that City & County Ethics filings are due May 1 for commissioners, and The June meeting is being moved to July to comply with the City's

budget timeline.

## **10. Adjournment**

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm