



SSA Commissioners Community Meeting

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

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

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 2:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Sara Lukens, Chris Bell, Jennifer Clark
Commissioners Absent: none
Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, RPBA,
Eliana Brody - UIC Student

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 2:35

2. Public comment

Eliana Brody introduced herself - she's a UIC student doing research for a class.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from prior meeting

Sarah moved approval. Jennifer seconded. Approved.

4. Approve minutes from last meeting

Sara moved approval of the July minutes; Jennifer seconded.
APPROVED Unanimously.

5. Public way aesthetics

a. Street Cleaning & Litter

Cindy shared updates on street cleaning and litter - approved budget increased funding for in-house maintenance team in an effort to improve recruitment and retention for the crew, which serves all 3 RP SSA districts. As a backup we also asked for pricing for outsourcing to Cleanslate - for 2 days a week in SSA54 they quoted \$11,000 for the year, or \$17,000 for 3 days a week.

Commissioners are concerned about the delay in tax revenue collections and how much is owed back to RPBA. Cindy screenshared financials as of November but our CPA is still working on December and year-end info.

The general consensus was that given the budget limitations and lack of complaints/urgency on litter on Sheridan Rd., we're not interested in pursuing additional litter pickup.

b. Landscaping

Cindy reminded commissioners that we've moved to a new landscaping vendor for 2023 due to performance and communication issues with the prior vendor. That said, there has been some turnover with the new company also and we're now on our third account manager since signing the contract. We'll be following up with them later this week regarding spring plant selections. Do commissioners have any other landscaping related feedback we should take to this meeting?

Sarah asked for info on the watering schedule since this was an issue last year.

Cindy will bring this up when meeting with the landscaping company.

c. BellaWrap

Cindy shared that the decorative anti-graffiti wraps that were applied to light poles and a utility box at Sheridan and North Shore have (somewhat ironically) been vandalized. Someone took a blade to several of the poles and cut chunks of the wraps off, and the utility box was covered in some sort of paint that apparently defeats the anti-graffiti coating, which we haven't been able to remove. We've contacted both CDOT and the vendor and the recommended course of action is to remove the wraps, which Brandon will be doing in the coming weeks as weather permits.

Chris is glad this project was done as a small-scale pilot project rather than a district-wide installation - now we know it doesn't work and there's no benefit to spending money to expand it

6. 2023 Events

Chris is planning to shift the dates for the Rogers Park Music & Arts Fest to the weekend of July 23 this year, later than in the past in order to avoid conflict with Taste of Chicago, which has made it difficult to recruit food vendors in prior years. She's also hoping to move it from Columbia to Pratt because Pratt is a wider street, and is waiting to hear back on a DCASE grant application for the event.

Cindy asked if Chris plans to request SSA sponsorship for the event again this year. Chris expects to have a request for the March or May meeting, probably for \$5,000, same as last time.

Cindy asked Jennifer if there were any updates about Loyola bringing back summer programming on the CTA plaza.

Jennifer didn't have any info and suggested asking Cecilia.

7. Finance updates

Sandi joined the meeting to address commissioners' questions about the tax collection delays - SSA54 did receive about \$9,000 in December and more is expected in early 2023 as the city and county receive and pass through property tax revenue.

Cindy asked about this year's first installment tax deadline also being postponed, and the status of any debt SSA54 owes back to RPBA.

Sandi will check on how much RPBA is still owed but thinks it may have already been paid off.

Sandi asked Jennifer about the voluntary SSA contribution from Loyola.

Jennifer checked and said it's still awaiting approval from her boss.

8. Key dates for 2023

Cindy reminded commissioners of key city deadlines for SSAs in the first half of the year, particularly City & County Ethics Filing deadline on May 1 - we had several commissioners in other SSAs rack up massive fines for late filing last year.

We're also required to approve the annual audit report and submit it to the city by May 1 - this will most likely require us to move the May meeting up into April to hit this deadline. As in prior years, budgets are due in mid-July, and DPD requires that all SSA's meet to approve budgets sometime between July 10-14, so the July meeting will also move up a week.

Cindy also reminded commissioners that we have several commissioner vacancies to fill if anybody knows of someone who might be interested. We're especially in need of a condo unit owner to take on the resident seat since Heather left.

9. Adjournment

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 pm

Adjourned.