



SSA Commissioners Community Meeting

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

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

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 2:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Sara Lukens, Chris Bell, Jennifer Clark
Commissioners Absent: none
Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, RPBA,
Joy Coombes, Almanza & Coombes
Kyle Ryan, 49th ward office

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 2:40

2. Public comment

There was no public comment

3. Approve minutes from last meeting

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

4. 2024 budget discussion

Sandi reported that Joy is running a little late, so we'll push the audit report to later in the agenda. Cindy asked commissioners to brainstorm any changes or programs they'd like to put in the budget for 2024. Several people mentioned events - Cindy asked Chris about the status of the RP music & arts festival - we'd included funding for it in this year's budget in anticipation of a sponsorship request for the event since we've done it in prior years. Chris reported that it's actually not moving forward this year - it's outgrown the space and there were some neighbor complaints.

Cindy asked what commissioners would be interested in doing instead.

Jennifer suggested talking to Cecilia - Loyola might be bringing back the farmers market events at the CTA plaza, most likely targeting August and September to coincide with student move-in and back to school season. Jennifer also pointed out that the Elevate Devon report and implementation plan identified events as a key priority, which is worth noting because of its proximity and overlapping audience with Sheridan Rd.

Cindy asked if we've ever done outdoor movies on the CTA plaza. Sandi mentioned that it may have been attempted in the past once or twice but was discontinued because the

passing trains were too loud. Jennifer suggested hosting outdoor movies in one of the Loyola parking lots on Sheridan instead.

Cindy asked about summer on the plaza - in past years it included live music on business patios further north, most notably at the New 400. It would be easy to reboot this but for the uncertainty regarding sale of the business and surrounding property. Sara and Jennifer agreed that it's worth trying anyway, Jennifer suggested a temporary lease of the patio space to ensure that outdoor programming could continue for the season in the event the property is sold. Sara asked about a restaurant crawl. Cindy said that last year was the first time back for the student dinner crawl after Covid and it was really well attended - assuming we'll be doing this again in September or October. Chris mentioned that Flatts & Sharpe already hosts a Friday open mic event and suggested a First Friday program for the SSA - sponsor pop-up performances or movies at different businesses on the first Friday of the month.

Sandi recommended reaching out to Cecilia and getting a handle on what's happening with the plaza farmers market and who we should be reaching out to for first Fridays.

Cindy will plan to keep events in the budget for 2024. Asked about landscaping scope - we've historically not included the median strip or triangle island at Sheridan and Broadway in the SSA landscaping contracts, but we've gotten complaints about it not being maintained - should we add it in moving forward?

Jennifer indicated that she thought the university had an MOU with the city for maintaining these two planting areas. The university is also looking at doing a campus master plan soon, so this may be able to be part of that.

Chris asked to just hire someone to maintain it in the meantime and Sara agreed.

Commissioners asked Cindy to get quotes to see if anything can be done with it this year. Cindy will reach out to our landscaping contractors.

5. Review & approval 2022 Audit

Cindy introduced Joy to present the audit. Joy shared the report via screenshare. There are no findings on the audit, which is good. SSA54 doesn't have much carryover - there was actually negative carryover last year, meaning we spent more than we had because RPBA lent money to the SSA due to the delay in the 2nd installment property tax collections. Joy said there actually might be a finding on the economic and business development tab - it looks like we went over by \$1300. Joy encouraged the SSA to monitor spending because SSA54 hasn't been getting the whole levy amount for the last couple of years.

Sara moved approval, Chris seconded
APPROVED.

6. Key dates for 2023

7. Adjournment

meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm