



Commission Meeting Minutes

Attending: Carolina Juarez; RPBA staff, Wally Andersen; Chair, Nick Kosiek, Commissioner; Irene Bermudez, Commissioner; Tolu Anaya, Pending Commissioner; Sara Izquierdo, Pending Commissioner; Sandi Price, Executive Director; Kyle Ryan, 49th Ward Deputy Ward Director;
Absent: Al Goldberg, Treasurer; Ilesa Duncan, Commissioner.

1. Welcome
Meeting began at 9:03 a.m.
2. Community and Public Input
None
3. SSA Audit 2023
Joy Coombes from Almanza & Coombes, LLC. Presented SSA #24 2023 Audit. Audit resulted in a "clean opinion". Assure dues are paid before the end of year. Motion to approve the 2023 audit as presented (Kosiek/Bermudez). Unanimously approved.
4. September 2023- Minutes
September 2023 & February 2024 minutes were reviewed. No changes, nor additional information were requested. Motion to approve September 2023 & February 2024 minutes as presented (Kosiek/Bermudez). Unanimously approved.
5. December 2023 Financials reviewed. No questions or comments.
6. Maintenance Crew Wage Increase
Carolina talked about the possibility of increasing wages for maintenance crew per the suggestion of a Commissioner. The Commission discussed and agreed to revisit this item every year. Motion to increase the wages of the Maintenance Crew every 6 months by \$1 with a cap at \$20/hour (Kosiek/Bermudez). Unanimously approved.
7. Special Events Sponsorship Application
In an effort to be more inclusive and transparent, it was suggested by Carolina that the SSA have an application process for community members interested in sponsorship dollars from the SSA. Carolina shared a draft of the application. The idea is for the Commission to go through applications and vote on sponsorship amounts depending on application submitted. The Commission discussed this suggestion. Motion to approve Applicants that meet all requirements outlined may receive a grant of up to 20% of the total budget for the event or program, not to exceed \$20,000 (Kosiek/Bermudez). Unanimously approved.
8. SSA Manager's Report – Carolina gave updates to commission on the following:
 - Storefront Planters
Businesses are already receiving planters for their storefront. There are 3 locations currently signed up;
 - Public Art
You Are Beautiful art installation on the fence of Touhy Park facing Clark Street, the phrase will say "Gracias Por Ser Quien Eres" (Thank you for being you). In addition RPBA has gotten permission to paint a mural on the building in front of RPBA on Morse Ave, on the wall facing the Family Dollar;
 - Clark Street Cultural Designation
Clark Street was awarded an official title from the State of Illinois as a Cultural District. In the future there will be funding for improvements and programming on Clark Street;
 - Greenleaf and Ravenswood Crosswalks
The SSA will install Vision branded crosswalks at the intersection of Greenleaf and Ravenswood just like the ones on Lunt and Ravenswood;



- Clark Street Makers Studio
Storefront Activation Pop-up Grant was not feasible, RPBA turned it down. Instead, we will use GROW/ENTREPRENEURIAL Training Center for new pop up space for vendors;
- GAAD Banners
RPBA getting designs for new banners at Glenwood and Morse for Glenwood Avenue Arts District
- People Spot
Being installed in May at Honeybear Cafe
- Identity Salon By Ana receiving love from ChiBizChat
- Landscaping
New contractor, Patch Landscaping
- Mainstreet Conference
Sandi, Cindy and Carolina attending in May

9. RPBA Updates

- North Side Restaurant Week was a success, restaurants liked the outcome;
- 7th District Restoration Grants will be announced in April
- Recast Leaders is a training Carolina is taking to learn about small scale manufacturing in Rogers Park;

10. Old Business-None

11. New Business- New/Closed Businesses: Estella's Creations & Flower Shop, Bubble City, Rogers Market.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:56 a.m.