

STATE STREET COMMISSION
State Street Commission Meeting
Special Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2021
2:00 PM
Via Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Mark Anderson
Commissioner Greg Cameron
Commissioner Kristin Duncan
Commissioner Eric Finnegan
Commissioner John Idler
Commissioner Mark Kelly
Commissioner La Verne Morris
Commissioner Ryan Segal
Commissioner Andrea Schwartz

AFFILIATION

Hines
Joffrey Ballet
Renaissance Hotel
CIM Group
ABC7
DCASE
20 North State Street Condos
Acadia
Macy's

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Gia Biagi
Commissioner Maurice Cox
Commissioner John Tully

CDOT
Department of Planning & Development (DPD)
Department of Streets & Sanitation

Others Present

Katherine Branch
Jean de St. Aubin
Michael Edwards
Dwayne Hightower
Robert Kearney
Kalindi Parikh
Lou Raizin
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
David Seglin
James Turner

CTA
Gene Siskel Theatre
Chicago Loop Alliance
Department of Streets & Sanitation
Alderman Reilly
Chicago Loop Alliance
Broadway in Chicago
Department of Planning & Development
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
CIBC

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair John Idler welcomed everyone and called the Zoom meeting to order Special Meeting of the State Street SSA to order at 2:05 PM. John welcomed Jean de St. Aubin the incoming Chair of the Chicago Loop Alliance.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Placemaking

Sundays on State Street

Michael Edwards introduced the idea of a consistent summer event along State Street to ease people back into the Loop. Kalindi Parikh shared a screen and reviewed the initial thoughts on the event including the closing of State Street from Lake to Madison and managing cross street traffic. The event would happen every Sunday from June to August or July through September from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM to take advantage of potential lunch and dinner crowds. Utilizing social distancing the event would be

programmed to entertain attendees, provide them with an opportunity to experience State Street in a new way and over time engage State Street businesses to bring their merchandise and services out onto the street, further engaging State Street visitors.

Kalindi outlined program ideas, potential partners and the cost in the \$20,000 per Sunday range. With the Commissions agreement Michael Edwards would speak with Alderman Reilly and assuming he would support the idea, discuss it with the CDOT Commissioners and with the State Street businesses.

After good discussion, the SSA Commission agreed to the concept and directed CLA staff to proceed with another level of planning.

Art Performance on the River

John Idler introduced Lou Raizin, CEO of Broadway in Chicago. Mr. Raizin outlined the idea of an event to celebrate the re-opening arts and culture in the Loop and beyond with a spectacular event along the Chicago River in late September or early October. The event would be like the Fire Festival but address the issue of scale utilizing the river from Michigan to Wolf Point and the urban canyon of buildings to create an immersive event utilizing projection lighting, high performance sound, on-the-river barge performances and huge jumbotrons to engage attendees throughout the hour-long performance. The performances would include all arts and culture organizations wishing to participate and reinforce that arts & culture, an important driver of Loop economic activity, is back and open for business.

Lou indicated the Chicago Loop Alliance and the SSA could oversee the event as the presenting agency including financial administration and potential seed funding. This event would be akin to the Super Bowl halftime show with strong media attention reporting that Chicago is back!! A key provision would be the broadcast of the event through ABC7, like the Michigan Avenue Lights Festival broadcast, across the nation. John Idler indicated this can be done but should not drive the discussion of the event elements. Lou agreed and stated this is an idea, one worth pursuing. John Idler indicated that it would be about 240 days away so let's explore the idea and at 120 days (June 2021) decide if it's a go-or-no-go idea.

The discussion settled around the cost for such an idea some indicating this in the seven-figure range. What role is expected of the SSA and CLA? Where is the city on the idea? This would need to be produced by an outside production company and is beyond the administrative capacity of CLA. How does this connect with DCASE's Chicago In Tune promotion? Michael Edwards indicated David Broz like the idea of the Sundays on State Street as a lead up to this arts & culture spectacular. This would be a strategy to get people comfortable about coming back downtown. Both Sundays and the river event need to be big enough that others can plug in and help to activate the Loop. The SSA Commission directed CLA staff to remain engaged in the planning discussion for possible formal presentation at the March 16th SSA meeting.

IV. Streetplus Contact

Michael Edwards indicated the CLA staff has completed the negotiations for a final contract with Streetplus. The Commission had approved the contract with the understanding the enhanced program (larger staffing etc.) would not begin in January per the impact of the pandemic. Edwards indicated he has worked out the final contract with Streetplus to begin the enhanced clean & safe program July 1, 2021. This will save the SSA approximately \$152,000 (in 2021) that could be reprogrammed, through a budget modification, for other purposes. The SSA Commission agreed to the revised contract timeline.

V. Snow Emergency Removal Procedures

With the recent heavy snow fall Michael Edwards wanted to explain to the SSA Commission how we attack snow in the SSA District. We bring in our entire crew of 10 people. (We are including the access to day-laborers in our new contract with Streetplus) and utilize a 4:00 AM start time when there is an emergency snow fall. The Team uses four snow blowers to cut a 4' path and clear store / building doorways; next then clear the sidewalk intersections; then they cut a larger path of at least 5' wide (per city ordinances) and now cut a path from the door to the curb for curbside pick-up. They continue shoveling and lay salt as necessary. With this completed they do the same for our through-buildings from Adams to Lake. We do not push snow into the street (a city violation) but store it on the sidewalk between the planters. Deputy Commissioner Hightower stated the Street Team does a good job and the city went from 6" of snow fall for the year to 55" of snow fall for the year to date over the last few weeks.

VI. Other Business

Abel Rodriguez informed the SSA Commission that per DPD requirements all future Zoom calls will be recorded.

VII. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

La Verne Morris
Secretary