

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present

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

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Gia Biagi
Commissioner Maurice Cox
Commissioner John Tully

Others Present

Sam Alexander
Robert Kearney
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
Jean de St. Aubin

AFFILIATION

Hines
Joffrey Ballet
Renaissance Hotel
Palmer House Hilton
ABC7
DCASE
20 North State Street Condos
Acadia
Macy's

CDOT
Department of Planning & Development
Department of Streets & Sanitation

CDOT
Alderman Reilly
Department of Planning & Development
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)
Gene Siskel Film Center

I. Call to Order

The October 19, 2021 meeting of the State Street SSA Commission was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Greg Cameron. Greg thanked the Commissioners for their continued support. Greg indicated with the return of the Joffrey Ballet and the re-opening of the City, post pandemic, it feels good to be back in the Loop.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to accept the Tuesday, July 20, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Idler and is seconded by Commissioner Andrea Schwartz. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Statements as of September 30, 2021 & Third Quarter Metrics

Abel Rodriquez reviewed the financial statements through September 30, 2021 which were sent to the Commission yesterday along with the 3rd quarter metrics. Abel indicated not a lot happened over the summer. The good news is we received \$2.1 million of the 2021 levy to date or about 74% for the year. So far this month (taxes were due October 1, 2021) we received an additional \$682,000 of which the majority is 2021 revenue, bringing our total levy received to 98% of budget. There remains \$64,000 to collect through the end of the year.

On the expense side we have spent just 59% of our budget, being conservative while determining if we will be receiving the EAV as expected. That said, we completed the sidewalk aggregate replacement and recently the sealing of the sidewalks. (Both were not completed in 2020 due to the pandemic.)

Abel presented the 3rd quarter metrics using a tracking document of DPD to ascertain SSA progress to stated annual goals on a quarterly basis on such things as printing materials, website visits and events. Abel gave a few examples, including 3rd quarter unique website visits at 436,000 compared to our goal of 100,000 and compared to 2020 when the figure was 81,000 (the large increase is largely due to Sundays on State).

A motion was made by Commissioner Duncan and seconded by Commissioner Idler to accept the State Street Commission financial report and 3rd Quarter report as presented and discussed. Motion carried.

V. Security

Greg Cameron stated our job is to make State Street clean and safe and here to update us on the current state of security on State Street is Sargent Carol Burns of the First District. Sargent Burns apologized for Commander Zuber not being in attendance, but who was busy monitoring the Chicago Sky basketball celebration in Millennium Park.

Sargent Burns stated robberies and theft are down from 2019 levels and motor vehicle thefts are up. Criminals are targeting vehicles with keys still in the ignition, such as Uber Eats type delivery vehicles. Events in the First District are winding down, but still a few to manage include today's WNBA celebrations, upcoming protest and demonstrations, Bears games and museum campus events. Greg Cameron thanked Sargent Burns and opened the floor to questions and concerns.

Andrea Schwartz from Macy's thanked CPD for their work and wondered about the status of shoplifting. Sargent Burns did not have any numbers to report but understands it is a constant problem in heavy shopping areas like State Street and a continued concern of the police. The police appreciate the consistency of the Macy's security team and filing claims so those apprehended can be prosecuted.

La Verne Morris, as a resident on State Street is active with a new organization of downtown residents is called Loop Neighbors. This organization feels there is a lot more crime downtown and a growing sense of unease and feeling unsafe being on State Street and the Loop in general. La Verne acknowledged there are many websites that make the situation seem worse, but there was a lot of noise and traffic problems associated with the week-long Mexican Independence Day celebration with wheelies and screeching tires into the early morning. Sargent Burns said that week-long celebration overwhelmed the police force in the Loop and CPD would hope to be more prepared next year.

Kristin Duncan is at the Renaissance Hotel and State & Wacker and appreciates all the police do for her hotel and State Street. She also reported big complaints during the Mexican Independence Day event. She is hoping for a better managed event in 2022.

Dean Lane echoed Kristin's comments and requested additional police services during some big shows like the upcoming Illinois AG show in December. The corner of Wabash and Adams is a mess and needs more consistent police presence to reduce the aggressive panhandling and move the intimidating characters on the street along. Dean feels it is a free for all, all hours of the day and night causing hotel guests from the Palmer house to feel intimidated and preyed upon.

Greg requested Jean and Abel to speak with Michael Edwards to commit some of our resources to this location to provide some assistance from the SSA. Dean appreciated that and thanks the CPD for the work they do on behalf of the Palmer House and the Loop.

Jean de St. Aubin, Chair of the CLA asked if the non-vaccination of officers will affect the number of officers on the street. The idea of this is not helping people feel safe in Downtown. Sargent Burns stated there will not a reduction in forces. Greg Cameron thanked Sargent Burns for being at today's meeting.

VI. Sundays on State

Kiana DiStasi gave a presentation recapping the success of Sundays on State. Sundays on State transformed State Street from Lake to Madison into an interactive city-wide block party in an effort to accelerate the economic recovery from COVID-19, unite the community, and create joy. All of those goals were met and exceeded. Sundays on State drew more than half a million people over eight summer events, creating an economic impact of over \$12 million. The series returned pedestrian visits to and above 2019 levels. Attendees came from every neighborhood in Chicago, and over 69% of activations came from underrepresented business owners. 88% of attendees said they would attend a future Sundays on State event. An intentionally inclusive,

diverse, and expansive marketing strategy yielded incredibly successful results. View a full pdf presentation of the impact, exposure, data, and feedback of Sundays on State [here](#). View a 2-minute video and online recap of Sundays on State [here](#). Kiana DiStasi reviewed the marketing strategy and how it was purposely designed to attract a diverse set of participants, vendors and attendees. In addition to using traditional media outlets, Chicago neighborhoods were invited through utilizing local and minority owed media leveraging 3.5 times the reach. Out of home advertising, broadcast and digital efforts were all pivotal to the diverse attendance we generated. There was positive feedback through the 1,000 post-event surveys and the vendors did not have to pay to participate in the event. Kiana thanked Dean Lane, Palmer House Hilton and Andrea Schwartz, Macy's for their sponsorship and the support of the SSA Commission, City of Chicago and Chicago Loop Alliance. Greg Cameron congratulated them and thanked everyone for their support of an idea that was an incredible success. We should take some time and take a deeper dive into the event and consider what we might do next year. Jean de St. Aubin thanked the staff, Commission and CLA Board for their idea and support throughout the event from conception to production. We need to do Sundays on State Street again but recognize the toll it has taken on staff and organization. We may need to scale it down, but the event is too good to not do again.

VII. Changing Commission Seats

Greg Cameron discussed changes to Commission seats and the need for some input to identify good candidates to replace Eric Finnegan of Block 37 who resigned over the summer. This is now an open position for a property owner on State Street. Michael Edwards can follow-up with more detailed information on potential individuals, their State Street property location and level of interest in joining the Commission. Also, Mark Kelly from DCASE who has given the SSA Commission and the City of Chicago incredible leadership over the last 3 years, embracing the Chicago artist and all of Chicago's neighborhoods, will be retiring and leaving the SSA Commission as of this meeting. A replacement could be the new Commissioner of DCASE, or the Library or even BACP. John Tully has retired from the City of Chicago. Cole Stallard, the Acting Commissioner of Streets and Sanitation will be taking his seat on the Commission. Gia Biagi had David Seglin sit in her seat from CDOT. David retired and Sam Alexander who is with us today will be Commissioner Biagi's designee. Greg was pleased to welcome Sam Alexander who is with us today. Greg finished his report stating Maurice Cox has requested the Commission allow Cindy Roubik, Asst. Commissioner of DPD, Central Region to serve his seat. Cindy is great and in charge of all planning for the central area, including the Loop. There was no discussion.

VIII. Status Reports

DCASE

Mark Kelly gave his last update to the Commission, expressing his love for downtown and State Street and how it has been an honor to serve on the Commission. The Chicago Sky rally was a tremendous, happy success. The Arts in the Dark parade will be on State Street on Saturday,

October 30, 2021, sponsored by CLA and Bloomers. Thanks to the Joffrey and Mayor Lightfoot for their support of the parade. The holiday tree lighting will be on November 19, 2021 and the ice rink will open the same evening. There will be a holiday sing along in Millennium Park this year. There is a new Italian concept taking over the former Park Grille site and things generally are looking better downtown. Mark reminded the Commission that the Loop has the second largest arts district in the country behind only NYC. The recognition, packaging, promotion and celebration of theatre, dance, opera, music, art and more is the compelling mix that will continue to lead the Loop out of the pandemic.

CDOT

Sam Alexander, CDOT introduced Sean Wiedel, CDOT to update the Commission on the recently passed ordinance to allow scooters in the City of Chicago, including the Loop. City Council approved an ordinance and CDOT is currently writing the rules to bring up to 3 companies and as many as 6,000 scooters to Chicago. CDOT and BCAP will be soliciting proposals to operate a scooter share program beginning in March of 2023. The system will be operated through CDOT & BACP and will be a 2-year contract. Different from the 2019 and 2020 scooter experiments, the operator will be required to institute a lock-to system which reduced complaints about the scooters by 75%; geo-fencing to enforce no riding on sidewalks and will require ongoing 'learn to ride' education events. CDOT anticipates some initial bumps in the program but is confident this will eventually become another way for people to come to work, play and visit the Loop.

DPD

Mark Roschen, DPD stated that BID legislation has been drafted with the help of CLA, BOMA, Magnificent Mile and others. It will be sent to Springfield to become state enabling legislation as a first step. This will allow for more detailed conversations and discussions bringing this new tool, BIDs (business improvement districts) to Chicago. The BIDs would not replace an SSA but could if the SSA decided that is in its best interest. John Idler asked about the difference between the two forms. Mark replied that a BID provides for more assessment flexibility beyond just the EAV such as frontage, number of stories, business, square footage etc. The second difference revolves around governance with the stakeholders, and not the government, makes the decisions regarding the amount and use of the BID revenue. According to Mark Roschen cities have only general oversight of BIDs in 45 states.

IX. Other Business

No other business was brought before the State Street Commission.

X. Adjournment

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Tuesday, November 16, 2021. Next time we are together will be just before Thanksgiving so begin thinking about snow fall! Thank you all for your time today. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
La Verne Morris, SSA Secretary