

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

2:00 PM

ABC-7

190 North State Street

10th Floor Boardroom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Greg Cameron

Commissioner Mark Davids

Commissioner John Idler

Commissioner Dean Lane

Commissioner Anne Voshel

Commissioner Elect Jennifer Williams

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Paul Fitzpatrick

Commissioner Elect Scott David Greenberg

Commissioner David Reifman

Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld

Commissioner Charles Williams

Others Present

Dave Broz

Michael Edwards

Sgt. Joel Holler

Laura Jones

Frank Jullian

Mike Parella

Abel Rodriguez

Cole Stallard

Vicki Williams

AFFILIATION

Joffrey Ballet

Hines

ABC

Palmer House

AVA Consultants

Macy's

11 East Partners LLC

theWit/ECD

Department of Planning Development (DPD)

Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Department of Streets & Sanitation

Gensler

Chicago Loop Alliance

First District Chicago Police

Chicago Loop Alliance

Macy's

Department of Planning Development (DPD)

Chicago Loop Alliance

Department of Streets & Sanitation

GSA

I. Call to Order

SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel

SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel called the meeting to order at 2:06 PM. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Status Reports

Security: Business Liaison Sgt. Joel Holler reported that:

- There is a permitted Pipeline Protest today.
- Sgt. Brannigan, the former Business Liaison Sgt., has been promoted and is in Lieutenant school. Holler has officially taken his place.

- A robbery pattern was identified. A group of 4-5 people were attacking solo individuals (primarily female) walking down Michigan Avenue. The victims cooperated and there was surveillance camera footage from businesses and CTA stops that aided in visual recognition of the perpetrators which contributed to arrests, clearing the pattern.
- 50 extra officers will be assigned to the Central Business District during the holiday season; 25 of them north of the river, 25 of them south of the river. (Note: The Central District is unique in that it has standardized 3 teams of foot officers and a bike patrol.)
- The Cubs rally was successful given the size of the crowd.
- Events coming up include the tree lighting ceremony on Friday, the Lights Festival on Saturday, and the Thanksgiving Parade on the 24th.
- The Commander would like you to know that there's probably going to be more protests coming up. Protests are anticipated Friday night at around 100 South Michigan and Saturday at noon around Federal Plaza. Some are permitted; some are not. (There was a discussion on how to best communicate these protests to retailers. Often protestors have come and gone before alerts can be sent by OEMC or the private sector. Laura Jones urged everyone to sign up for CP3 and Notify Chicago, as well as ABC push notifications. All are good sources of information. ABC7 also does live broadcasts of some of the larger protests.)

Streets & Sanitation: Cole Stallard thanked everyone for their assistance in cleaning up after the Cubs parade and rally. There were 5 million people downtown, and by the time Streets & San crews got to State Street, it was nice to see that it was already clean and looking great. In other news:

- An area of concern for them recently has been the number of pop-up protests. People are roaming all over and have even shut down Lake Shore Drive. It has been a challenge to keep them away from the Trump Hotel.
- Although cleanliness is better in the Pedway, there have been ADA issues. CDOT has been notified.
- OEMC just held a meeting regarding the upcoming Festival of Lights. Spreaders (salt trucks) are being used to block east-west streets for security purposes.\
- Snow is anticipated to be pretty active this year. We've been averaging 36" of snow a year, but meteorologists estimate that this year we'll be closer to 40-45". Most events will be 1-2" but there is the possibility of a 12" event around the time of the Super Bowl. We are prepared with 374,000 tons of salt.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Idler to accept the minutes of the Tuesday, October 18, 2016 State Street Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Financial Statements as of October 31, 2016

Abel Rodriguez said this would be the last opportunity this year for the Commission to make any budget modifications. When changes are made and approved, they will be put in DPD format and uploaded to Share Point per the financial guidelines. Meeting packets contained the budget summary as of October 31st. The changes that were made and approved at the last meeting were highlighted in pink, along with some suggested revisions.

At the last meeting we reported that we had received \$82,000 of what we thought would be a loss collection, so we allocated that amount to different line items: placemaking, aggregate sidewalk repair, sidewalk sealant, and painting 5 CTA grates. After our meeting, we received an additional \$8,900. What CLA as sole service provider is proposing in today's budget modification discussion, is to reduce the loss

collection by \$8,900 – which is how we arrived at the \$43,852 on the Budget Summary – and use it to adjust the following line items:

- Infrastructure maintenance: Instead of waiting until next year, we could order the fabrication of the molds for the cast iron fencing parts we use to repair damaged planters.
- Clean and Safe: These line items became disproportionate when we joined these programs together and eliminated a layer of management.
- Placemaking: Placemaking is a variety of things including ACTIVATE, City Seats, the Gateway, public art, etc. Last time we took away \$15K from Lightscape to put towards the Muddy Waters mural, however, this line item is still \$13K in the red because the anticipated sponsorship goal was not met. This is the first year we've had a loss.

Commissioners discussed Lightscape at length, and asked why the system was not utilizing the synchronized music and lights as it was designed to do. Synchronizing the music is expensive (but makes the installation an attraction), so there shouldn't be money to transfer to another line item. Michael Edwards said that it had simply not been a priority, it was a programming decision and a staff challenge to utilize the system on a consistent basis. The system's technology is also aging. Chair Voshel asked that Lightscape programming be put on a future Commission agenda. This State Street asset should not be lost. Commissioner Idler asked for the system's specs so that his team could study possible upgrades.

A motion to approve the sum total of the revisions to the budget was made by Commissioner Cameron and seconded by Commissioner Idler. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davids asked, with the upcoming holidays, if there had been any further thought about hiring an off-duty police officer. Michael Edwards responded that the officer was in our 2017, not 2016, budget. The focus this fall has been on our provider, StreetPlus, combining the Clean and Safe Teams. This is also the first year these teams will be removing snow. The off-duty officer will be hired by StreetPlus, not CLA, for liability reasons. Edwards was hesitant because we do not have the management infrastructure in place at this time to integrate an experienced officer into the team. Davids said that he was bringing up the subject because one of his providers, visiting here from New York, will no longer stay nearby due to the panhandling issue. Commissioner Williams said the subject was definitely worth having a conversation about since Macy's receives similar complaints all of the time. She is open to doing whatever we can to make State Street a better experience for customers.

Chair Voshel pointed out that hiring an off-duty officer now would require another modification to the 2016 budget. Michael Edwards added that preliminary research indicated the cost would be somewhere between \$30-75 per hour, and that the officer would be in plain clothes, not a uniform. But the officer could still take police action, and since he would be employed by us, the response time to a problem would be less.

Commissioner Davids stated that he would be a proponent of taking \$20,000 out of the SSA budget and hiring an officer in the month of December to see how it works this holiday season. Maybe some placemaking has to suffer, but it's a bigger issue. Commissioner Cameron disagreed. He felt that one plain-clothes officer would not have an impact. Sgt. Holler reminded Commissioners that effective 2 days ago there were 25 extra officers assigned to holiday detail south of the Chicago River, and that Commander Klich was also hiring off-duty tactical officers for the area.

Commissioners debated hourly rates and the number of hours that would be required, along with what line item the money could come from. Perhaps only \$12K would be needed. Commissioner Davids said that he was advocating that we allocate the money, not necessarily spend it. But Commissioner Idler felt if we were going to allocate money, we should spend it on as many hours as it would buy, otherwise the impact is lost. The next issue was where the money was coming from. Abel Rodriguez, cautioning that hiring an off-duty officer may require DPD approval (Mike Parella said he would check), thought that funds remaining in the

power washing line item was a possibility. Michael Edwards suggested that the Commission could authorize CLA staff to find any unspent money in line items and move it into security.

Chair Voshel expressed apprehension. If we don't have an organization ready to do this, and we said we weren't going to implement the initiative until 2017, she'd rather see us plan for it and do it well. It is already mid-November. Commissioner Davids responded that he didn't think management would be that difficult; the off-duty officers he hires through Titan are completely self-sufficient and the process has been seamless. If there is no issue with resources, why not give it a trial and vet the process? This is a major value-added for retailers.

Commissioner Cameron disagreed, saying that both the Alderman and the Commission have been talking about this for over 6 months. How are we going to suddenly put together a proposal and implement it within two short weeks? How will success be measured? It makes more sense to align ourselves with the Chicago Police Department and figure out how to best take advantage of the 25 extra officers in the area.

More discussion followed. Could the off-duty officer be incident driven? How would the officer be dispatched to an incident and by whom? By a cell phone number given to retailers? By a radio connected to the ambassador team? Does the officer stay in one place or is he out walking around? Could we give retailers a security rebate (a la a façade rebate) for hiring extra security of their own? With timing running short, Chair Voshel asked if there was a motion on the table.

Commissioner Davids said that in his business, things move quickly. If StreetPlus were in the room today it would have been a big advantage. If we asked them directly if putting the off-duty officer in place next month was possible and they said sorry, there's no way we can take this on now -- then he would just drop it. But they also might say that if this is really important for the Commission right now we want to help you out -- we've done this before.

Commissioner Lane added that he felt we just Band-Aid things. He has stacks of letters from first-time visitors who go to Millers on Wabash and are targeted, harassed, swindled and hoodwinked by the same aggressive panhandler. The same panhandler returns over and over again. Perhaps he's wrong, but he sees our beta test off-duty officer finally managing and stopping this situation. To Commissioner Lane's point, Commissioner Cameron said it might not make everybody else happy, but he would buy into a beta test that assigned an officer to a very narrow area to see if it worked. If it worked at the Palmer House, it probably would work at Macy's.

Commissioner Davids made a motion that we vet the concept of an off-duty officer by allocating a maximum of \$12,000 to hire an off-duty officer in the month of December 2016 to be managed by the Safe Team. This motion includes a budget modification to be made by CLA staff, moving the funds from power washing to safety. Commissioner Idler seconded the motion. The motion passed with one nay recorded.

VI. Sole Service Provider Report

A. CLA 2017 Business Plan

Michael Edwards said that in addition to being the Sole Service Provider for the SSA and managing that budget, CLA also has its own budget and a foundation budget. Pointing to the 2017 Business Plan included in meeting packets, Edwards urged Commissioners to look at the overall picture. Per Chair Voshel's comments today, Lightscape will be incorporated into the plan in greater detail.

B. President's Report

A President's Report was also contained in meeting packets. CLA has not found new office space and it appears likely the organization will remain at the Palmer House. There are two open staff positions: Marketing and Placemaking. Interviews start this month and hopefully the new hires will be on board in January.

C. Private Commissioner Vacancy Nominations

Michael Edwards met with Alderman Sophia King and her staff. She would like us to consider a public commissioner south of Jackson. Currently, there is only one private commissioner opening. Resumes of possible nominees were included in meeting packets. Not included is a possible DePaul nominee – Fran Casey is working on getting us paperwork. Commissioner Idler suggested that we need more diversity in our nominations.

VII. Other Business

There was a revised 2017 schedule in packets. The April meeting date was changed to accommodate the auditor's report.

David Broz extended an invitation to everyone to attend CLA's December 7th Holiday Looped-In event at Macy's, beginning at 5:30. It was also noted that holiday decorations were in the process of being installed on State Street. This year's theme is the Nutcracker, in honor of the Joffrey's new production.

The next SSA#1-2015 State Street Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January, 2017 at 2:00 PM at ABC7.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Cameron
Secretary