

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

2:00 PM

ABC-7

190 North State Street

10th Floor Boardroom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Greg Cameron
Commissioner Paul Fitzpatrick
Commissioner John Idler
Commissioner Dean Lane
Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld
Commissioner Anne Voshel
Commissioner Charles Williams

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Michelle Boone
Commissioner Ralph Hughes
Commissioner David Reifman

Others Present

Anthony Ciaravino
Mark Davids (Commissioner Elect)
Michael Edwards
Scott David Greenberg (Commissioner Elect)
Laura Jones
Frank Julian
Danny Loomans
Matt Nielson
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
Jennifer Williams (Commissioner Elect)
Vicki Williams
Jeff Wilson

AFFILIATION

Joffrey Ballet
Joseph Freed & Associates
ABC
Palmer House
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
AVA Consultants
Department of Streets & Sanitation

DCASE
Macy's
Department of Planning Development (DPD)

First District Chicago Police
Hines
Chicago Loop Alliance
theWit/201 N. State
Chicago Loop Alliance
Macy's
Chicago Loop Alliance
DCASE
Department of Planning & Development (DPD)
Chicago Loop Alliance
Macy's
GSA
CTA

I. Call to Order

SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel

SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Introductions were made around the room.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Next Steps: Transition of SSA#1 to SSA#1-2015

Laura Jones pointed out that meeting packets contained a copy of the City of Chicago Ordinance that terminated SSA#1 and established the new SSA#1-2015. The new ordinance is slightly different than

the previous one. For example, the SSA#1-2015 Commission will be composed of 13 individuals, 2 more than we had on the Commission previously. All but one of the applications has either been confirmed or is close to confirmation. Rich Cooke of Block 37 decided not to proceed with joining the Commission, creating a vacancy. There have been several suggestions for a replacement including Jason Blum from Tishman. Everyone should be thinking about possible nominations for that seat.

As was mentioned at the previous meeting, now that we have a copy of the establishment ordinance, we can use it to update or create new bylaws for the Commission. There is a template created by DPD that makes the process relatively easy. Jones asked for volunteers for an ad hoc committee. Chair Anne Voshel, and Commissioners Fitzpatrick, Idler, and Greenberg agreed to serve.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Idler to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2016 State Street Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Lane. The motion carried.

V. Financial Statements as of February 29, 2016

Abel Rodriguez gave an audit update. The audit visit occurred at the end of February and went well, however, the auditors still have a few questions about the termination of the old SSA, verification on the liability (which can be explained by submitting prior minutes to them), and what's left of the carry-over. We found out that at the end of the year there was a negative \$25K in the city controller's SSA#1 account (not CLA's SSA account) because of more property taxes being disputed and rebated. However, the way the termination is worded the city can't come back at the new SSA#1-2015 for collection, nor will we be receiving any additional revenue such as TIF funds. We just need substantiation of that status for the auditor.

At the next meeting, the Commission will review the finalized audit (which will be sent out ahead of time for individual study and feedback). Documentation of this audit review along with a vote to accept or reject it is due at City Hall by May 1st so it is crucial that we have a quorum in April. This audit is especially important since it covers the termination of SSA#1.

Packets contained financial statements as of February 29, 2016. The revenue side is lacking, since we won't be receiving SSA funds until the second tax installment of 2016. CLA is currently using their reserves to pay expenses so that services don't stop on State Street. Eventually, probably next month, CLA will have to use their line of credit. Chair Voshel asked if CLA will be billing the SSA for the interest incurred with the line of credit. Rodriguez said yes, but we have not had to use it yet. Separate accounts have been established for CLA and the SSA. CLA will bill the SSA for their expenditures.

Rodriguez asked Commissioners if they would like to see statements in the detailed form we have been using, or in the more streamlined city format. Commissioners agreed they would rather see more detail so that they could see what they are spending their money on. A motion to accept the financial statements and to continue to use the more detailed reporting format was made by Commissioner Cameron and seconded by Commission Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Status Reports/Outstanding Issues

A. Transportation and Infrastructure

Commissioner Scheinfeld reported that CDOT was about to kick off the main construction season. The two main Loop projects are still the completion of the Washington/Wabash station and Loop Link (work at Canal & Randolph) along with the reconstruction of the Adams Street Bridge (which will be closed for a year). On Wabash it's been all underground work; the station itself won't be open until the end of the first

quarter next year, but traffic lanes will be opened. The old Randolph Station will not be demolished until the new station is ready in spring 2017.

The repaving of Randolph will happen toward the end of the summer. It was pushed back because extra work on the utilities was requested. CDOT is trying to sequence the work appropriately. Contracts will be awarded in June as part of the city's arterial roads project.

We had a conversation last year about removing the deteriorating Theatre District Signs. The cultural pylons (vertical signs) and the bike racks were removed, and the dead trees were removed and new trees were planted. Shortly, we will begin improvements to tree grates as needed to expand the inner diameter. New tree grates are on order and should be installed in May. The remaining old granite pavers with the damaged inset identifiers will be removed and replaced with concrete this spring. This is anticipated to also occur in May.

B. Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

In the absence of Commissioner Boone, Matt Nielson distributed Cultural Center brochures detailing activities for March-April-May 2016. There were record crowds at the Cultural Center in February, and the department is gearing up for summer programming from Pritzker Pavilion concerts to Farmer's Markets to films and exhibits. Everyone can enjoy downtown Chicago this summer!

C. Sole Service Provider

Michael Edwards set up a discussion regarding the direction to take for the next Street Team RFP. Panhandling and homelessness have affected State Street for years. Three years ago we put together a Street Team to attempt to manage these problems and create a better atmosphere on State Street. The initial contract for the team expires April 30th.

The strategy for the team was to start soft and then get stronger. Phase 1 was engagement; phase 2 education; phase 3 enforcement. We learned (some individuals have been on the streets for over 28 years, many are mentally ill or have substance abuse problems); we tried to educate others (the team kicked off a Change for the Better program, conducted lobby fairs, and developed a "top ten" list for police); and we got tougher with enforcement (making more 911 and 311 calls along with asking panhandlers to relocate). In addition, we experimented with summer and winter hours, business checks, and giving support to theatres pre and post shows. The team has good working relationships with DFSS, the First District Police, and Social Service agencies. They've participated in key city programs like the Point in Time survey and the Mayor's Veteran Outreach Initiative. From a program perspective, we have succeeded.

The environment remains challenging. The Black Lives Matter movement and gun violence has impacted the entire city. There is less police availability. City and State budget cuts have decreased mental health resources and caused many social service agencies to close. Recent Supreme Court decisions have weakening panhandling laws across the United States and Chicago has no "Sit and Lie" ordinance. Sole Service Provider Staff's recommendation is that we send out another RFP, utilizing the same SSA budget, and continue to focus on aggressively moving panhandlers and preventing people from sitting down and spreading animals, cardboard and objects all over the sidewalk around them.

Commissioner Charles Williams confirmed that Supreme Court decisions are making things tougher for efforts of the county police and others to clean up in this area and city-wide, even though there may be ordinances on the books and notices posted. The city is being sued again for removing belongings from the public way. He said that he thought the direction the current Street Team was going in, engaging social services, was correct, and that he also would say that having something that could work on this problem was much better than having nothing – otherwise the whole area would simply be taken over. But some Commissioners weren't convinced, especially considering the cost of the program.

Commissioner-Elect Davids said that he would like to explore other options and see what other cities are doing. The metrics are getting better, but they are not good enough. He would like to better understand what we can do within the law, or maybe investigate funding a shelter or place where these folks could go to get them off the street. Chair Voshel suggested that Davids talk to Commissioner Hughes, before he retired at the end of the month. Hughes has done extensive research and evaluations of programs in other cities.

Michael Edwards said that at the CLA Board Retreat, hiring off-duty police officers was suggested. Commissioner-Elect Greenberg said he felt it was important to keep going and build on the proposal. Perhaps we could leverage the team with real time electronic security camera data regarding what's going on out on the street 24/7, and tie the cameras in electronically to OEMC. Commissioner Cameron suggested that we network with other SSAs having the same problems. There needs to be a call to action. One of the Joffrey dancers was assaulted by an aggressive panhandler. Thinking beyond a team of 6 people, if we don't have dollars to invest, there may be universities who have social service programs who might be interested in supplementing what we have. Michael Edwards replied that CLA has partnered with MMA on the panhandling issue. John Chikow wants us to sit down with hoteliers to create a sense of urgency. Commissioner Lane felt this would be incredibly useful.

Laura Jones said that in thinking about off duty police or partnering with others, when we issue a new RFP, it was important to note that the new SSA sole service provider agreement stipulated that security firms needed to be certified and that hiring was subject to City of Chicago approval. In other cities, Street Teams like ours are considered Hospitality Ambassadors, not Security Officers. However, currently our Street Team is in the SSA budget under Ambassador and Public Safety Program. Mark Roschen confirmed that he did not consider our Street Team to be a security firm, so they would not need certification.

Commissioner Idler commented looking at the program and crafting an RFP was going to take time. He asked if we had the capacity to extend the contract for 60 days. Commissioner Lane counseled it could take as long as 6 months. David Broz said perhaps even a year. Commissioner Williams felt the direction the program was going in was good. Shelters are not the solution. He strongly advocated for having something in place before we let what we had go. Commissioner Fitzpatrick said the summer was an especially critical season, and we should work around the issue, not the SSA budget.

Chair Voshel asserted it was healthy to discuss the program. It's an incredible amount of the SSA budget, the program should be the best it can be, and we should make sure we want to do it. Extending the current program for 6 months only (to create a sense of urgency), she asked for volunteers to evaluate what we have and look at other initiatives. Volunteers included Commissioners Dean Lane and Greg Cameron, along with Commissioners-Elect Mark Davids and Jennifer Williams.

Continuing the Sole Service Provider Report. Laura Jones stated there was an RFP out for pressure washing the sidewalks and cleaning street furniture. A copy was contained in packets. The RFP is on CLA's website and has been emailed out to 10 companies who have inquired about providing the service in the past. Pressure washing is done April through November, and this year we will be adding sections of Wabash. There is a pre-bid meeting Friday and proposals are due March 28th. A contract recommendation will be made and voted on at the next Commission meeting. Commissioner-Elect Greenberg said that the Wit Hotel did their own pressure washing, and it would be interesting to get as many responsible owners as possible in the SSA to do their own pressure washing and put those dollars to smarter use somewhere else. Jones responded that the scope of work was larger than just pressure washing. It included gum removal, vacuuming out the CTA grates, window washing CTA kiosks.

Michael Edwards pointed out 3 different Springboard reports in Commission packets. He asked Commissioners to take the time to read them slowly. CLA will get these reports every week, and property owners with cameras on their building will get the reports every week. Our challenge will be "unpacking" the reports. There is a lot of information. There are still additional counters available. Springboard is

recommending that we put counters on Michigan Avenue at the river, at Washington, and at Adams so that we can measure how people are accessing State Street and how the new Michigan Avenue development is impacting State Street. These are preferred blocks; no buildings have been secured yet. It takes a lot of time to talk to people and secure permits; if the Commission doesn't want the counters in these locations CLA won't begin the process. Edwards asked for a motion to approve the locations. Commissioner Fitzpatrick said he didn't feel one was necessary; Springboard is the expert, defer to them.

Also contained in packets was a draft RFP for CLA office space. Edwards said the owner of CLA's current office space, Thor Equities, would like to sell the building and currently CLA is on a month to month lease. If anyone has a relocation suggestion, please let Edwards know.

D. Security

CPD's Anthony Ciaravino said that in a short span of time the 1st District went from providing resources for the conflict at the Donald Trump Rally (which was in the 12th District), to keeping a million people at the St. Pat's river dyng and parade safe, to monitoring a 6,000 person Bernie Sanders rally at the Auditorium that extended into the wee hours of the morning. It's not letting up; the teacher's union is rumbling about an April 1st march. The force is tired, but they will be prepared and have enough support. They have phenomenal people including Deputy Chief Georges, Ryan, and Commander Area Central Nagode (the latter two both former 1st District Commanders) and new 1st District Commander Klich.

CPD does have a quality of life team, which does missions regularly. They work with your Street Team, whom they like and think do a great job.

E. Loop Development Report

Mark Roschen said Commissioner Reifman sent his regrets. He did not have a prepared report on behalf of DPD. Chair Voshel asked Vicki Williams if she had any new information on the GSA block. She did not.

F. Department of Streets & Sanitation

Commissioner Williams said he'd wait for another report from Jerry Taft, but it appears the snow is over for the season. Budget-wise the department has done well, and the salt contracts have been renewed for lower than what they were before. With the good weather, spring cleaning is beginning sooner. We also continue to work with the homeless population on lower Wacker and in other places.

G. CTA

Jeff Wilson reported that the CTA is also starting on spring cleaning of the subway stations. They have also been working with CLA on the replacement of the kiosk banners at State/Madison.

VII. Other Business

- Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 2:00 PM at ABC7. Audit approval will be on the agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 PM was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Cameron
Secretary