

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

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 Mark Kelly
Commissioner Dean Lane
Commissioner Charles Williams
Commissioner Jennifer Williams

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Paul Fitzpatrick
Commissioner Scott David Greenberg
Commissioner David Reifman
Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld
Commissioner Anne Voshel

Others Present

Joanna Angarone
Michael Edwards
Judie Green
Laura Jones
Commander Robert Klich
Brent Minor
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
John Tully
Robert Wissmann

AFFILIATION

Joffrey Ballet
Hines
ABC
DCASE
Palmer House
Department of Streets & Sanitation
Macy's

11 East Partners LLC
theWit/ECD
Department of Planning & Development
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
AVA Consultants

42nd Ward
Chicago Loop Alliance
Auditorium Theatre/Chicago Loop Alliance
Chicago Loop Alliance
First District Chicago Police
Chairman Emeritus
Department of Planning Development (DPD)
Chicago Loop Alliance
Department of Streets & Sanitation
A.C.T. Group

I. Call to Order

SSA#1-2015 Vice Chair John Idler

SSA#1-2015 Vice Chair John Idler called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, January 17, 2017 and the Tuesday, March 21, 2017 State Street Commission meetings was made by Commissioner Davids and seconded by Commissioner Lane. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Revision of Bylaws

Vice Chair Idler distributed copies of the proposed SSA#1-2015 bylaws, noting that there was no pride of authorship involved since the document was a slightly revised version of the SSA#1 bylaws created from a DPD template. Essentially the bylaws are based on our current ordinance and very little language is negotiable. The biggest changes are in the attendance section and the number of days required for meeting notifications. He urged the group to take the document home and come back with any questions. A vote to adopt the revised bylaws will be taken at the next meeting.

V. 2016 SSA#1-2015 Audit

A.C.T. Group Auditor Robert Wissmann went over the first governmental audit for the new SSA#1-2015, the draft of which was sent to Commissioners prior to this meeting for their review. After some lengthy conversations with the city, the audit was revised to get rid of all items (except one) referring to SSA#1 prior to the reconstitution. No numbers were changed. It's a clean audit and SSA#1-2015 has been given a good bill of health. Highlights include:

- Page 3, the governmental funds column, reflects the funds, revenues, expenditures and changes in the fund balances for the year ending December 31, 2016. The organization has \$411,000.00 in cash; \$235,000.00 in payables which are all due to the sole service provider; and has pre-paid \$51,000.00 worth of items in advance. So the fund balance, or carry forward, is \$226,183.00. The rest of the columns are adjustments for the City of Chicago.
- Page 4 is the new presentation for profit and loss. The SSA has taken in almost \$2.4 million in cash from the city. The SSA spent \$2.173 million, which is how we get to the carry forward of \$226,183.00.
- Page 5-6 is revenues, expenses, and budget/actual in detail, account by account. The good news is that in every major category the SSA did not go over the budget, which the city does not like to see. Page 6 shows the SSA was budgeted to break even, but spent \$226,183.00 less than the cash received.
- The rest of the pages and the footnotes, are pretty much boilerplate right out of the financial guide for the City of Chicago. They are explanations for the reader.
- One notable item is found on page 10, schedule of findings. This where a CPA has to report to the City of Chicago any unusual items that go against the standard operating procedure for the city. This comment has been here since A.C.T. started doing SSA#1's audit in 2007. This SSA is unique in that it does not co-mingle funds, but CLA pays the bills and then the SSA reimburses CLA. It's all beautifully transparent; there are approvals all over the place from SSA and CLA officers, but most other SSA's pay bills directly out of the SSA account. On page 11, is a response to this from an audit several years ago which Wissmann included because he does not want the city to think that this is something brand new.

Wissmann called for questions. Commissioner asked about the source of the pre-paid \$51,000.00. It was for the Springboard pedestrian counters. The contract began in 2015, but there was a delay in obtaining permissions, permits and installing the counters, so CLA negotiated an extension of the contract. The amount is now included in the carry forward for 2017. Hearing no further questions, Vice Chair Idler asked for a motion to approve the SSA#1-2015 audit for 2016, which was made by Commissioner Cameron and seconded by Commissioner Lane. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Review of First Quarter Performance & Expenses

Abel Rodriguez stated that Commissioners had received a copy of the First Quarter Performance & Expenses (metrics) via email last week, and a duplicate copy was included in today's meeting packets. He

called for questions. Hearing none, Vice Chair Idler called for a motion to approve the report, which was made by Commissioner Lane and seconded by Commission Davids. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Review of Carry-over Budget Allocations

Michael Edwards pointed out the document in meeting packets which contained the budget changes previously discussed and recommended in regard to the \$226,183.00 carry forward to be spent in 2017. Some of these include additional money for the website and our safety program, expenses related to the Muddy Waters mural unveiling, creation of Year of Public Art banners for State Street, and Lightscape improvements. The suggestions were sent to Alderman Reilly's office. His only concern with these allocations (and going forward to allocations as we create the 2018 budget) was that more money should be assigned to security and safety, given the quality of life issues he hears about on an ongoing basis and the strains upon the police department. He did not suggest a specific dollar amount, but when you look at upgrading a website vs. security, the first priority should be that the quality of life issues are addressed.

Recognizing the alderman's comments, but given time constraints, Edwards asked that the recommendations be approved as presented, and that we look at incorporating more security into the 2018 budget draft. It should be noted that the \$30,000 that we had allocated for hiring a security firm to provide off-duty police officers to work with the Street Team is not included in the carryover. We are hoping that our pilot program with the First District squad car and officers assigned to the Street Team during specific time periods is successful; however we may need to use some of that money to better implement the initiative. There have been some hiccups with radio reception between the officers and the team. We may need to upgrade our equipment or purchase a dedicated cell phone. Commissioner Davids said if a repeater is needed near his building at State and Adams to let him know.

Joanna Angarone asked if the CLA calls get recorded by the police as service calls. Commander Klich responded, yes, they generally will. Michael Edwards said that the Street Team also keeps track of their calls to police and other data.

Commissioner Cameron inquired about the \$36,000.00 allocated to the Economic Impact study. Has there been an exploration of costs and who might do the study? Michael Edwards replied that he had spoken with consultants who said that money is sufficient to do the work. He has pulled examples of arts and culture studies done in other places and spoken to organizations that have done them. He sat down with Lou Raizin at Broadway in Chicago and talked about putting together a working group for the study. Commissioner Cameron and Judie Green volunteered to be part of that working group.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Lane to approve the Carry-over budget allocations as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davids. It carried unanimously.

VIII. Status Reports

DCASE: Commissioner Kelly announced that last week's attendance at Millennium Park was 12.9 million people. Do the math as to how many people will visit the park over the year! DCASE has never had a visitor experience strategy, but now the department is working on one. We are now calling it Millennium Campus and the area downtown Chicago's Cultural District. We'll be convening organizations in that area next month.

90 days of free programming is about to start. The Crown Fountain re-opened last Saturday. The grand opening of the Riverwalk will be held on May 20th. The Muddy Waters mural will be dedicated on June 8th. Blues Fest is from June 9 through 11 and will be held in Millennium Park, resulting in 5 less days of street closures. Taste of Chicago is from July 5-9 this year, and a shift will occur making it more of a

cultural event than a food event. The Picasso anniversary occurs in late August and the Biennial starts September 14th.

Commissioner Kelly passed around copies of a Tribune article written by Chris Jones titled: “Strike a pose, Bean: How we’re changing how we spend our time and money.” The article says that the gravity of the city has moved to the central district, and is driven by Millennium Park and the cultural attractions here. Restaurant and retail in the area benefit greatly from this, and conversely he suggests that the Mag Mile, which 10 years ago was the center of gravity, will struggle more because of the difficulties of retail. There’s a lot of information in the article about this district and its future.

Security: Commander Klich said that iPhone thefts from unattended purses or tables at restaurants remains a problem, as does theft on public transportation. It’s not solely a 1st District problem; thieves are also going south to the 18th District. Missions have been stepped up on the red line.

Streets & Sanitation: Commissioner Williams introduced his First Deputy, John Tully, to the group. Williams said they’ve been having some issues with the emptying of baskets; trucks were obstructing mid-day traffic. Timing adjustments for pick-ups are being made. The department is working on a pilot with DFSS and Safe Haven on homeless issues. Safe Haven engages individuals and tries to get them to move on and get assistance; then the department has a team behind them to clean the area they left up. We will keep this going as long as DFSS is behind the project.

Sole Service Provider Report: Michael Edwards gave the Commission a heads up on a conversation he had with John Buck. Buck is looking for ways to make all of downtown cleaner and safer as well as finding ways to create job opportunities for youth. He envisions putting those two things together and creating a Loop-wide initiative, something like SSA#1-2015’s clean and safe program. He asked CLA to do some research on cost and impact, so we took our existing StreetPlus program with its current staffing levels and hours and applied that to the whole Loop. We estimated the cost to be somewhere between \$2.6 – \$2.9 million dollars. Then Buck asked Edwards to run numbers on creating something LIKE an SSA to share the burden in paying for the program. It would be just pennies. Buck would like to go talk to the Mayor about this. He asked Edwards to create a one-page summary of the findings. Edwards responded that prior to creating the summary, the Commission, CLA Board and the Alderman needed to discuss Buck’s proposition to determine if everyone would even be in favor of it. Edwards said he wanted to broach this subject with the Commission prior to meeting with the Alderman on May 16th.

Commissioner Lane asked if the jobs would be for at-risk youth. Edwards said that part was not clear, the discussion didn’t go that far; there was just the assumption that it would help downtown’s relationship with surrounding neighborhoods. During the initial conversation Edwards thought we could just take our existing program and scale it up, creating entry level jobs with opportunities to work into something better. We would probably need 40 people. But perhaps it’s just a maintenance program.

Chairman Emeritus Minor said that he didn’t think that you would want to develop another structure. You need one group in control, and he certainly did not want CLA’s role to be diminished. Commissioner Davids said BOMA needed to be approached. In concept it is a good idea if everyone shares in the payment. Edwards directly asked if he should continue to pursue this so that he could let the Alderman know that the Commission was –or was not—interested in pursuing the conversation. Vice Chair Idler responded that it was certainly appropriate to share our best practices, but he didn’t think we needed to define what our role is in it at this point.

Continuing to the next item, Edwards said that at the last meeting, Ryan Segal was nominated to fill the one vacant seat we have left on the Commission, but we were unable to vote due to lack of a quorum.

Commissioner Davids then made a motion to nominate Ryan Segal to fill the seat, which was seconded by Commissioner Idler. The motion passed without further discussion.

Concluding, Edwards said that the CLA's Finance Committee would be starting the draft budget for 2018 soon. He would like to have the Commission's direction in the process. He asked for volunteers. Commissioner Davids volunteered, and Vice Chair Idler said that either he or ABC7's Laura Graves would serve on the committee.

IX. Other Business

Mark Roschen reminded Commissioners to file their ethics statements for the city and the county. The city's late penalty is \$250.00 per day.

The next SSA#1-2015 State Street Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 2:00 PM at ABC7. On the agenda is a first draft of the 2018 budget, which we are required to immediately file with the city. The new EAV comes out in July, which might necessitate further budget adjustments.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Cameron
Secretary