

# STATE STREET COMMISSION

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## State Street Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

2:00 PM

ABC-7

190 North State Street

10<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom

### MINUTES

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commission Members Present

Commissioner Greg Cameron  
Commissioner Mark Davids  
Commissioner John Idler  
Commissioner Mark Kelly  
Commissioner Anne Voshel  
Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld

##### Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Paul Fitzpatrick  
Commissioner Scott David Greenberg  
Commissioner Dean Lane  
Commissioner David Reifman  
Commissioner Charles Williams  
Commissioner Jennifer Williams

##### Others Present

Joanna Angarone  
Keiana Barrett  
Michael Edwards  
Rodney Freeman  
Judie Green  
Sgt. Joel Holler  
Laura Jones  
Mike Parella  
Abel Rodriguez

#### AFFILIATION

Joffrey Ballet  
Hines  
ABC  
DCASE  
AVA Consultants  
Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

11 East Partners LLC  
theWit/ECD  
Palmer House  
Department of Planning Development (DPD)  
Department of Streets & Sanitation  
Macy's

42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
4<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Public Library  
Auditorium Theatre/Chicago Loop Alliance  
First District Chicago Police  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Department of Planning Development (DPD)  
Chicago Loop Alliance

#### **I. Call to Order**

**SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel**

SSA#1-2015 Chair Anne Voshel called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Due to Commissioners cancelling their attendance at the last minute because of illness or business travel, she acknowledged achieving a quorum would be doubtful today. Introductions were made around the table.

#### **II. Public Comment**

No comments were made by the public.

#### **III. Approval of Minutes**

In the absence of a quorum, the minutes could not be approved.

#### IV. Financial Statements as of February 28, 2017

Abel Rodriguez said that the auditor's visit occurred on March 9<sup>th</sup>. It went well, with the exception of one issue with Springboard. Because installation of the pedestrian counter system got a late start, we negotiated with Springboard, resulting in an agreement to extend the contract by a year at no extra charge. 2016 should have been the free year; however, Springboard billed us in 2016 for 2017 so the invoices needed to be recorded as a pre-paid expense of \$51,000.00. This changes the amount of our carry-over. At the last meeting we anticipated a carry-over of \$175,000.00. With the Springboard adjustment, the carry-over to 2017 is now \$226,000.00.

The draft audit will be ready the first week of April and will be sent to all Commissioners for advance review. The auditor will then go over it and answer any questions at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission is required to vote to accept or reject the findings, before sending the audit on to the Department of Planning and Development no later than May 1, 2017. If a quorum is not achieved at the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, another Commission meeting will have to be immediately scheduled prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be in compliance with the deadline.

Turning to the 2017 SSA#1-2015 Budget Summary, Rodriguez said that based on previous input from the Commission and CLA service provider Board, the additional \$226,000.00 had been tentatively allocated to different line items (highlighted in yellow) for the consideration of Commissioners. It should be noted that the \$39,000.00 for the off-duty officer program remains in the ambassador and safety program line although it has not been implemented. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Michael Edwards went through the yellow highlighted budget modifications:

- We are increasing the marketing budget by \$95,000.00 for the cost of completing a new website that is consumer facing and focuses on the services provided by the SSA.
- In connection with the Muddy Waters mural dedication, there were no objections to allocating \$20,000.00 to this line item, but the money should contribute to specific expenses rather than be a DCASE sponsorship.
- Contributing \$20,000.00 to the \$100,000.00 art project to be constructed in Daley Plaza for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Picasso was not greeted with the same universal acceptance as the afore mentioned mural dedication. The location is just slightly outside of the SSA and there was some pushback from some SSA property owners on the CLA Board, who felt it might not be the best use of our funds. Judie Green suggested we could do something on State Street in conjunction with the anniversary, perhaps an After School Matters type of competition involving planters and kids with the theme of "What Does Your Picasso Look Like?" Commissioner Kelly said he was meeting with some after school programs this week; he would present the idea, which would connect State Street to DCASE's Year of Public Art. Edwards built on that, saying maybe students or approved artists for State Street could design banners if the ultimate decision was not to contribute to the anniversary celebration, but to celebrate public art more generally on State Street. If we can't find an appropriate use, we will put the money in the Clean and Safe program.
- Regarding Lightscape, there is agreement that it is an underutilized asset on State Street, but there is the thought that we should invest in technology upgrades and repair of the system before we spend money on additional synchronization. This budget is increased by \$40,000.00.
- The unused \$15,000.00 discovered by the audit was allocated to the Clean & Safe program.
- Regarding the Economic Impact Study, we have gotten feedback from Choose Chicago, World Business Chicago, the university presidents and others that we should

do a different study than we've done in the past, one that centers on Arts and Culture and large events in the Loop. These groups estimate such a study will cost approximately \$36,000.00 and it will allow us to tell a different story about Chicago when so much of the news is now focused on crime. We are a world class cultural destination. (Commissioners suggested asking the cultural institutions to contribute to the research study and/or to seek grant money.)

In the absence of a quorum, final decisions on the budget modifications could not be made. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

## **V. Revision of Bylaws**

In the absence of a quorum, the bylaws discussion led by Commissioner Idler will be put on a future agenda for discussion and approval.

## **VI. Status Reports**

**Security:** Commissioners asked for the status of StreetPlus hiring the off-duty officer. Laura Jones responded that at the last meeting she reported that we were not able to retain an off-duty officer from a security firm during the holiday season for a variety of reasons, not the least of which was timing. After the January Commission meeting, StreetPlus identified another firm that would be willing to work with the Street Team, however, this firm insisted that because of Loop liability issues, we couldn't hire just one officer. Their officers would have to work in teams of two (which would significantly increase the budget and decrease the length of the pilot.)

Subsequently Jones met with StreetPlus and Commander Klich and some of his executive staff seeking advice. The Commander said that he would prefer that a private security firm was not used at this time -- also because of liability. He said he would be willing to assign two of his uniformed officers and a squad car to respond to the Street Team's radio calls during peak pre-designated times for a trial period. The Commander will hire these officers back on overtime out of his budget (no cost to the Commission), a procedure known as "buy-back" which has also been used on Michigan Avenue in the 18<sup>th</sup> District. He asked CLA/StreetPlus to write a letter to him stating the problem and requesting the "buyback." Details are still being ironed out, we will meet the Commander again, but the partnership is expected to start shortly.

Sgt. Holler continued the security report, saying that there is a strong-arm robbery pattern right now on the Red Line which is being addressed aggressively by the First District's detective division and officers. The perpetrators distract individuals, and then their buddies come up and batter the victim, going through pockets and stealing phones. There have been two recent successes in closing community alerts. One was for CTA trains where the offenders would snatch the phones out of people's hands and then run out the door. They have been apprehended and put in custody. Another was for theft at construction sites. These crimes were committed by a previously incarcerated individual, who also has been arrested.

Upcoming events include the Shamrock Shuffle on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Tax Rally on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the Immigration March on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CDOT:** Commissioner Scheinfeld said that CDOT is in the home stretch of the Washington/Wabash elevated station construction. They are on schedule to reopen a through lane on Wabash on March 31<sup>st</sup>; concrete is being poured. The project continues to unfold as they work on the canopy and elevator structures. Track closures will occur over the weekend. Better access is coming to the southeast section of that block. The new station will open in June. Afterwards demolition of the Randolph station will begin.

CDOT will hold a press event for the station's reopening in June, and they would like to hold a conversation with CLA and DCASE regarding staging a celebration event with entertainment in the evening (something like ACTIVATE) which would close the street down and bring back attention to Wabash businesses and this area as a community focal point. There is a real opportunity for messaging here, and the opening of an accessible station is a huge benefit for the State Street/Millennium Park district and for the handicapped, for families, and for shoppers with bags. (Michael Edwards said that he will put this on the Wabash business group's agenda, but that identifying dates will be critical. Earlier we had talked about a ribbon cutting when the station opened and then later on an August event.)

There is still work to be done on the Loop Link station and bus lanes at Madison/Wabash, where the elevated station impacted completion. That work will start in May, and the bus lane pavement markings will be refreshed in April.

**DCASE:** Commissioner Kelly said that DCASE will hold a by invitation only press conference with the Mayor on April 6<sup>th</sup> to announce the new attendance figures for Millennium Park and to start using language referring to the downtown Cultural District. The new attendance figures will place us as one of the most visited cultural sites in the world. Also in April, the Crown Fountain rehab will be finished. Plumbing, tiles, and the projection system are all being rehabbed. (But it will always be the original 1,000 faces that are projected.)

Another key date is May 20<sup>th</sup>, when the Riverwalk will be dedicated. This major event will last from 10:00 AM to dusk, featuring firework waterfalls, dragon boat races, fish puppet/float parades, etc. DCASE will continue with some additional programming throughout the year. What you have to think about is that we now have 3 urban parks of the highest order in the downtown Cultural District: the Riverwalk, Millennium Park, and Maggie Daley Park.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Muddy Waters mural will be dedicated. The time has not been set yet, it could occur at noon or at 5:00 PM. The input of the Commission and CLA is welcomed. Michael Edwards offered to reach out to organizer Jennifer Washington at DCASE to coordinate details.

The press conference announcing Chicago's 2<sup>nd</sup> Architecture Biennial will be held in NYC. The Biennial is open to the public and will be on view from September 16, 2017 through January 7, 2018. This second generation event is stronger and will draw more people.

In cooperation with CDOT, DCASE will be putting up a test prototype of a "flying creature" on a Wabash light pole. If everyone likes it and we get the reaction we hope it does, this "modern gargoyle" art project will be implemented from Lake to Harrison on Wabash. The creatures are fabricated by creative youth and others.

**Loop Development Report:** Commissioner Reifman was not in attendance. Laura Jones said that the RFP for the GSA properties was issued today. Please contact her if you would like the online link or a copy. Regarding Pritzker Park, Jones said she needed the help of CDOT, CPD and the Alderman's office. The long vacant kiosk in the park has been broken into several times. People have been sleeping and defecating in there. It is a safety hazard and should be removed. The Park District (Robert Arlo) said they will not take it down until they find out who owns it; it may be a DeCaux structure. Commissioner Scheinfeld said she would track that down; the issue is always the cost of removal.

**Streets & Sanitation:** No Streets & San representative could attend the meeting.

**Sole Service Provider Report:** Michael Edwards stated that there was still one vacant seat on the Commission and that Ryan Segal, the Senior Regional Property Manager for Acadia Realty Trust, had

expressed interest in serving. His bio was contained in meeting packets. Acadia has three properties on State Street, one of which is the retail portion of the Sullivan Center. Since there was not a quorum to vote on the nomination, Edwards stated that he would give a heads up to the Aldermen and a vote of affirmation could be taken at the next meeting.

Also in packets were copies of the President's Report, the annual numbers for Springboard, the 2016 StreetPlus Annual Report and the 2016 Chicago Loop Alliance Annual Report. In regard to the StreetPlus document, Laura Jones noted that the team's interactions with the homeless have gone down because there are fewer homeless individuals on State Street. There may be several reasons for this. Our team has been working on developing relationships and referring individuals to services for the last three years, and the Mayor's office has especially focused on outreach to homeless veterans and youth in the past year. Interactions with the mentally ill and aggressive panhandlers along with the number of quality of life issues reported have not decreased. Chair Voshel said it would be helpful to see the comparison of years next to each other.

**CTA:** No CTA representative attended the meeting.

## **VII. Other Business**

The next SSA#1-2015 State Street Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 2:00 PM at ABC7. The meeting is scheduled a week later than usual because of a conflict with tax day. The agenda includes a presentation by our auditor of the 2016 SSA audit. A quorum is required to vote on accepting the audit, which we are required to send to the city by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Cameron  
Secretary