

STATE STREET COMMISSION
State Street Commission Meeting
Tuesday, April 18th, 2023
2:00 PM
ABC 7 Chicago - 190 N State Street, Chicago, IL - 10th Floor

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

AFFILIATION

Commission Members Present

Mark Anderson

Greg Cameron

Konstantine "Gus" Drosos

John Idler

La Verne Morris

Ryan Segal

Hines

Joffrey Ballet

Palmer House Hilton

ABC 7/WLS Television, Inc

20 N. State Condo Resident & Board of
Directors

Acadia Realty Trust

Commission Members Absent

Gia Biagi

Maurice Cox

Kristin Duncan

Erin Harkey

Cole Stallard

Chicago Dept. of Transportation

Chicago Dept. of Planning and Dev.

Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel

Chicago Dept. of Cultural Affairs

Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation

Others Present

Melvin Craig

Cmdr. David Harris

Rich Gamble

Sam M. Alexander

Abel Rodriguez

Mark Roschen

Chris Rowe

Luis Zepeda

Sabha Abour

Chicago Loop Alliance

Chicago Police Department

RVC Chicago

Chicago Dept. of Transportation

Chicago Loop Alliance

Chicago Dept. of Planning and Dev.

CTA

Chicago Dept. of Streets and Sanitation

Lamont Robinson

Campaign

I. Call to Order

The Chair of the State Street Commission, Greg Cameron, called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Cameron noted that it was nice to see a new face today at the Commission's

meeting, and introduced Dr. Sabha About, Chief of Staff for Alderman-elect Lamont Robinson. He said that he looks forward to working together with the three alderpersons once they take office on May 15th.

II. Public Comment

The Chair then recognized himself during the time for public comment, speaking in his capacity as President and CEO of the Joffrey Ballet. He said that as a life-long Chicago resident, the teen trend event that took place on the evening of Saturday, April 15th, 2023, was the most disturbing experience he had personally witnessed in 40 years. He noted that it was hard not to point fingers while watching youth break into cars and engage in the violence before him. He said that the Commission needs to produce solutions, inaction is not an option, and that we should all be outraged by this behavior. Greg felt the CLA statement to the press was cowardly and we need to do more to correct the issue of crime in the Loop and on State Street. Lastly, he explained that the meeting agenda for the day would be scrapped, and that the group would mostly be discussing the events of the weekend that transpired in the Loop.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Cameron asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 21st SSA Commission meeting.

The motion to approve was made by John Idler and seconded by Konstantine “Gus” Drosos. The motion passed.

IV. Status Reports

Brief on "Teen Trend" Event from Cmdr. Harris

Commander Davis Harris of the Chicago Police Department’s 1st District then proceeded to brief the group. He explained that the events of last Saturday started Thursday night with an unplanned meet up at 31st Street Beach which was not specifically a teen trend. Since the weather was nice, people parked their cars in the beach lot and a party ensued there. The police disbursed the group once it got out of control.

Friday night there was a planned teen trend event at 31st Street Beach. The teens showed up at 7pm and were initially just hanging out at the beach. Eventually, the group decided to leave the beach by way of 31st street, and that is where things got wild. One teen ended up shooting themselves accidentally with their own weapon and the group panicked and scattered. The police and EMS addressed the teen’s wound. Meanwhile, police disbursed

the crowd west, which took some time. While this was going on, a gentleman was pulled out of his Tesla, beaten, and the car was destroyed.

Saturday, there was no advance intel about what was happening. The teen trend was discovered around 6:30 pm near Millennium Park. What was initially 40 people turned into 200 in the blink of an eye. In the past, youth would take the CTA, which is monitored by CPD, but nowadays kids are taking Ubers themselves to these locations where youth scouting for teen trends is happening. The Commander and his team tried to gather the youth and disburse them, but there was already too much damage done. The Commander stated that he believes the city needs to find ways for the youth to gather safely. At theaters, museums, or through internships and job training. That said, going forward, the 1st District has a plan to manage this kind of large-scale event in the future.

Gus Drosos thanked Commander Harris and the CPD for the work they did and asked if he felt he had the assets required to manage the teen trends. John Idler asked about when a teen trend, via social media, becomes credible, and how far in advance businesses can be contacted. The Commander felt they have the resources and when to declare an actionable event is imprecise at best. Edwards explained we reformat and send out all CPD communications about teen trends via our GroupMe account and membership advisories. The Commander said businesses are frustrated with their encrypted radio communications. The Commander said the practice is to move the teens west out of the park and through the Loop to the red and blue lines and down Dearborn to the south Loop. A challenge last Saturday was the closure, for a while, of the CTA buses and redline trains. There was discussion about persecuting individuals, even in other states, that are using social media to insight these unauthorized teen trends.

Commander Harris apologies but left the meeting to attend another scheduled meeting.

Greg Cameron, John Idler and others expressed further frustration with CPD beyond the teen trends commenting on the car-jacking and misbehavior of young people in the Interpark garage at Randolph and Wabash. Michael Edwards was requested to connect Interpark to see what can be done to improve the parking garage safety and cleanliness regarding adjacent buildings and business users.

There was discussion around for CPS and others to establish guidelines for behavior and ways to engage the youth of the city. Greg Cameron stated probably no sectors does more free programming and engages youth than the arts & culture community in the Loop. Rich Gamble, CLA Chair stated he sees the issue the solutions in degrees from providing opportunities, to prevention, to planning, to responding and if necessary, enforcement. But can the business community do more including internships, jobs etc. La Verne Morris asked where is the inventory of programs for Chicago's youth? Gus stated we need to do a better job of communicating the opportunities in the Loop and on State Street such as the 54 jobs he currently has available.

XXXX and Sam Alexander suggested the Commission consider becoming involved in the Bud Billiken Parade on August 13, 2023 to show support for the national oldest black parade. Michael Edwards reminded the Commission of the impact the Sundays on State event has had in opening State Street to the full Chicago community with no violent issues over the last two years.

After some further discussion by Commissioners, Chicago Loop Alliance President and CEO, Michael Edwards, noted that Chicago Loop Alliance has received a grant to extend the service hours of the StreetPlus State Street ambassadors starting this June, similar to the one that was awarded last year.

V. 2022 CLA / SSA Audit

The Chair moved onto the audit briefing, introducing Chicago Loop Alliance CFO, Abel Rodriguez.

Abel Rodriguez reported the auditors were not able to attend the meeting today due to the movement of Tax Day to today. In light of that and the SSA schedule, Abel provided the Commission with a review of the 2022 CLA/SSA audit. A copy of the report was given to each Commission member earlier and Abel took the Commission through each page of the document.

The overall message was that the auditors are reporting a clean 2022 SSA 1-2015 audit with not issues of concern. They felt the CLA staff was available and forth coming with the information needed to complete a detailed audit. Abel stated the late 2022 levy payments, received in January and February did impact our carryforward. Abel reviewed the profit and loss, the actual expenses compared to the previous year, the way CLA pays all expenses and is then reimbursed by the SSA which enhances transparency.

After brief discussion, a motion was made by Ryan Segal and seconded by Kostantine Drosos to approve the 2022 SSA 1-2015 Audit as presented including the budget line item changes presented at the January State Street Commission meeting reflected in the audit as well. Motion carried.

VI. Financial Statement & Metric Report

Abel Rodriguez reviewed the financial statement through March 31, 2023 and the SSA First Quarter Metrics Report. Through March 31, 2023 the SSA is in good shape, though the levy is delayed. We will be managing expenses carefully. The audit revealed we will be carrying forward less money than the \$435,000 we budgeted. Staff will make some recommended budget modifications for the Commission to consider at our June meeting. Abel reviewed the Quarterly Performance Report and felt we were on track through the

first quarter of the year regarding our stated deliverables to the State Street SSA as reported to the City of Chicago and Department of Planning & Development.

After discussion, a motion was made by Greg Cameron and seconded by Ryan Segal to approve the SSA March financial report and first quarter performance metrics as presented. Motion carried.

VII. Other Business

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and stated that he is looking forward to meeting again on June 20, 2023.

VIII. Adjournment

La Verne Morris, Secretary