



West Town SSA #29-2014
Commission Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2022 at 10am on Zoom

Commissioners in attendance: Evan Muellner (Owner, Pie-Eyed Pizzeria), Stephen Tobiason (Owner, Epic Spices), Nora McCarthy (Owner, Gallery 2052)

WTCC staff in attendance: Erin Ludwig (Director of Economic Development), Susan Aldous (Interim Executive Director), Kate Ziyad (Director of Programs & Partnerships)

Others in attendance: Lee Mosser (Mu Gallery, SSA Commission Applicant) Taylor Olds (Urban Source, SSA Commission Applicant) Betty Romo (Greater Southwest Development Corporation) Danny Castañeda (Director of Community Development, 1st Ward Alderperson La Spata), Alderperson Daniel La Spata (1st Ward Alderperson), Paul Poy (SSA Commissioner) Alice Howe (SSA#33 Program Manager)

1. Welcome and Call to Order at (10:11a.m. by Stephen T.)
2. Public Comment¹
 - a. Betty Andrews-Romo, local restaurant owner, located in Chicago & Damen, business closed in 2021 due to COVID-19 after 12+ years in business. Victims of robbery, forced entry, stolen ATM & computers, POS systems, door broken in process. Remodel (custom made door, frame replaced, glass replaced.) Grant application submitted and approved. Co-owner, unavailable due to personal challenges (over time.) requesting re-opening application for grant funding.
 - b. No further public comment
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2021
 - a. Approved, all in favor (Stephen 1st, Nora 2nd)
4. Administration and Finance
 - a. Financial reports – REVIEW
 - i. No discussion required
 - b. Quarterly Report and YTD Report
 - i. Approved, all in favor (Evan 1st, Stephen 2nd)
 - c. 2022 Christy Webber Weeding Contract – \$5,760
 - i. Approved, all in favor (Stephen 1st, Nora 2nd)
 - d. 2022 Christy Webber Mulching Contract – \$3,350
 - i. Approved, all in favor, (Nora 1st, Stephen 2nd)

¹ Public comment ensures all voices are heard on issues pertaining to the West Town SSA. Commissioners are not required to provide immediate feedback to concerns presented. Public comment will occur during the first 15 minutes of each meeting, with each speaker granted no longer than 3 minutes to speak. Full public comment guidelines can be found on our website.

5. Presentation – Alderman Daniel La Spata, 1st Ward – SSA mental health outreach team
 - a. Alderperson La Spata: Introduction of crisis response committee, citing citywide social and mental health crisis. In 2021, 1098 mental health disturbance calls, 300 additional calls for suicide. Alternative crisis response necessary to ensure work is spread out across police and other responders. Mental health clinicians, relevant and effective care, beyond officer response. Introduced proposal of partnering with SSA budget to bring mental health crisis relief services to SSA corridor. SSA #1 currently contracts in partnership.
 - b. Question: What are some relevant examples and analytics / metrics of success? *1st ward: referencing NYC, Denver, San Fran, Eugene Oregon. 1% of crisis calls require police back up. Healing of health & human relations committee on pilot programs in Chicago.*
 - c. Question: Is this an independent RFP process that the SSA will initiate, and commissioners choose best option? *Yes.*
 - d. Question: Has DPD weighed in on this proposal and what line item it would be in the SSA budget? *DPD has not been contacted and 1st Ward unaware of the line item in the SSA budget.*
 - e. Question: What overall budget already allocated toward these kinds of services? How are services guaranteed to be performed in the service area? *\$250K grant, \$85 million DPH allocation, \$35-\$50 million covid relief allocation, federal funds. Not sure what would be put in place to keep the services in the service area, but they would partner with an existing organization that ensures a 90 minute or less response time.*
6. Update – Erin Ludwig, Director of Economic Development – Pop Up Project
 - a. Lease cancellation for August tenant, soliciting applications for new tenant.
7. Façade Rebate Program
 - a. New Application – 1407 W Chicago Avenue, Creative Coworking - \$775 rebate with preferred bidder
 - i. Approved, all in favor, (Nora 1st, Stephen 2nd)
 - b. Finished – 2135 W Chicago Avenue, The Stoop
 - i. Approved, all in favor, (Evan 1st, Stephen 2nd)
8. Security Rebate Program
 - a. Finished – 1541 W Chicago Avenue, Mu Gallery
 - i. Approved, all in favor, (Stephen 1st, Nora 2nd)
9. Next West Town SSA Commission Meeting
 - a. April 7th, 2022 at 10am

New Business: Appointment of SSA#29 2022 Chair Evan Muellner, (Nora 1st, Stephen 2nd)

10. Adjournment at (10:57a.m.)
 - a. Approved, all in favor. Stephen 1st, Evan 2nd