

Lakeview SSA 27

Commission Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2017, 8:30 AM

St. Luke, 1500 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60657

Present: Jill Heise, Terese McDonald, Luis Monje, Amy Novotny, Chuck Stewart, Nabil Zahrah

Absent: Darian Campise, Melissa Salvatore, Erin Schwartz

Staff: Lee Crandell, Dillon Goodson

Guests: Mike Amsden, Jason Aragon, Paul Leamon, Matt Lederer, Lisa Santos, Doug Zylstra

Public Comment

Nabil Zahrah welcomed the guests in attendance, who each introduced themselves.

Presentation by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)

Nabil Zahrah introduced Mike Amsden, Assistant Director of Transportation Planning for the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT). Mike presented on the Milwaukee Avenue Complete Streets improvements, which introduce low-cost, quick-hitting pilot improvements for people walking, biking, driving and taking public transit along portions of Milwaukee Avenue, and also shared updates on the Lincoln Ashland Belmont Reconstruction and other planned improvements for the intersection of Lincoln, Roscoe and Paulina. For the Milwaukee Avenue project, Mike suggested that the total cost of initial improvements was estimated around \$225,000, with the majority being funded by CDOT. He said that CDOT is working closely with the Wicker Park Bucktown SSA #33, which identified many of the opportunities for improvements in its master plan and will be responsible for activating new public spaces created by closing slip lanes once the project is complete. While current plans for Lakeview do not include dashed bike lanes down Lincoln Avenue, Mike suggested that the width of Lincoln Avenue was similar to Milwaukee Avenue and could accommodate similar improvements. He reminded Commissioners that the Lincoln Ashland Belmont Reconstruction project incorporates many of the concepts first introduced by SSA 27 via the Lincoln Hub Project, while the forthcoming enhancements at the intersection of Lincoln, Roscoe and Paulina would also close slip lanes, creating new public space.

Call to Order

Nabil Zahrah called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Terese McDonald motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 10, 2017, seconded by Luis Monje; motion carries.

Commissioner Nominations

Nabil Zahrah presented statements of interest for new Commissioners and Commissioners whose first terms were set to expire in early 2018, including: Jason Aragon, Whole Foods Market; Darian Campise, Campise Properties; Matt Lederer, Mahogany Builders; Terese McDonald, Candyality; Erin Schwartz, a resident; and Doug Zylstra, Bazar Apparel. Luis Monje motioned to nominate the slate of six candidates for the SSA Commission, seconded by Chuck Stewart; motion carries.

Lakeview Gift Card

Dillon Goodson shared a proposal from EML Payments, the company that services the Lakeview Gift Card Program, for a new online gift card sales platform called CardFront that will replace the existing online sales platform, which is being phased out by the company at the end of 2017. He explained that EML Payments has offered to waive a \$200 per month fee if the Lakeview Chamber is able to commit to a three-year agreement, which means the monthly costs for administrative fees related to the gift card program would be limited to an estimated \$25 per

month increase. Some Commissioners indicated that they did not think the Chamber should commit to a multi-year agreement with EML Payments in case there is a shift in technology and another vendor is able to offer a more competitive alternative. They also suggested that EML Payments could help identify better ways to promote the program to gift card customers to help ensure that gift cards are spent at multiple businesses. Other Commissioners thought that the new online sales platform would be a significant improvement over the current system that could help attract new customers to purchase gift cards online. Commissioners agreed that the Chamber should seek a better exit clause or a short-term agreement with EML Payments, and deferred action to a future meeting. Dillon said that he would share this feedback with EML Payments and reminded Commissioners that this meant CardFront would probably not be available in time for the 2017 holiday promotion since it takes a few weeks to implement.

Low-Line Committee Report

Jill Heise invited Commissioners to attend a public meeting to review the Low-Line Plaza design concepts on Tuesday, September 19 from 6-8 PM and shared the following updates:

- **Project Phasing and Budget:** Jill Heise presented the latest draft budget for the Low-Line improvements at Ashland and Paulina, with an estimated total project cost of approximately \$350,000 for the new plazas. The budget is likely to continue changing as PORT works with the Low-Line Committee to refine the project scope and begins seeking proposals from contractors to execute the improvements. Jill motioned to adopt a phasing strategy that will prioritize the Paulina Plaza improvements and then focus on new plazas on both sides of Ashland, seconded by Chuck Stewart; motion carries.
- **Southport Art Partitions:** Jill Heise updated the Commission that the CTA had approved the installation of four art panels in the west side of the Southport Plaza space, with work expected to be completed in October. She presented four unique concepts from two Chicago-based artists, who were preselected by the Streetscape Committee and asked to create site-specific proposals for the Southport art panels. The Commission discussed the different proposals. Jill motioned to select a concept by Joseph "Sentrock" Perez titled "Southport Style," seconded by Terese McDonald; motion carries.

Streetscape Committee Report

- **Lincoln Ashland Belmont Mural:** Terese McDonald updated Commissioners that a proposed mural on the south-facing wall of the XSport Fitness Building located at the intersection of Lincoln/Ashland/Belmont would be installed in October, funded by SSA 27 as part of the City of Chicago's Year of Public Art initiative. She shared four site-specific concepts from two Chicago-based artists that were preselected by the Streetscape Committee. The Commission discussed the different proposals and how they helped accomplish the stated goals of the project, which include beautifying the public way and increasing pedestrian traffic along Lincoln and Ashland avenues. Luis Monje motioned to select a concept by Anthony Lewellen titled "Lake View," seconded by Terese McDonald; motion carries. The Commission acknowledged that changes to this concept were possible and agreed that the Streetscape Committee could make a different selection if there are any issues with the preferred concept. Terese also shared a budget for the mural with a total project cost estimated at \$15,000. Terese motioned to authorize the budget, seconded by Chuck Stewart; motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Chuck Stewart shared the 2017 financials through July.

Adjourn

Terese McDonald motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chuck Stewart; meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.