

Special Meeting Monday, August 23rd, 2021, 9:00am – 10:00am

Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91783909198?pwd=SXpZU0l6SWxlUVZtdGROS1UyRkhQZz09>

Meeting ID: 917 8390 9198 | **Password:** 505807

Commissioners Present: David Israel, Joe Lombardo, Stan Razny
Commissioners Absent: NA
Others in Attendance: Gina Caruso (Oak St Council/The Lord Companies, LLC),
Robert Lopez, Oak Street Council Board Member, Robert
Kearney, Office of Ald. Reilly

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. Lombardo called meeting to order at 9:35am.

2. Public Input

No public present.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. On acceptance of minutes for the following meeting:

Motion to accept August 10, 2021 minutes.

Motion: Lombardo **Second:** Israel

VOTE: Approve – ALL **Motion Passes.**

4. Security Patrol Contract

- a. Caruso reported that the Security Patrol RFP. Seven companies were either contacted or contacted the Oak Street Council, four of which submitted proposals. Caruso also reported that Pat Donovan of Chicago Risk and Casualty Consultants suggested using the Cook County Sheriff's Hireback program for security patrol. Caruso stated she would check with DPD but is fairly certain SSA funds cannot be used to directly fund County and City police.
- b. The SSA Commission and attendees discussed safety/security strategies other than patrol services in the SSA, including:
 - i. *Speed humps on the street:* Kearney stated that CDOT engineers would need to look for ways to reduce speed and a study could take 6 months to 1 year to complete.
 - ii. *Street closure:* discussion was about a permanent street closer and to check with the 18th District Commander about this option. Israel and Lopez offered to put a list of benefits together of closing the street. Kearny offered to forward a memo from a meeting 12/30/20 regarding a pilot program for street closures Summer 2022. The SSA Commission brought up the possibility of relocating valet to Rush St. and would need to discuss this further with Ald. Reilly's office.

- iii. *Towers:* install towers on Oak St that would provide a raised platform for CPD and/or security officers to view the district and would provide a location for additional cameras. Lopez offered to contact the 18th District (Sgts. Schenk and Vanek) to further discuss this option.
- iv. *CPD Satellite office:* The SSA Commission discussed the possibility of a satellite office for the CPD on Oak St. Kearney stated that this option is likely not feasible.
- v. *Cameras:* Caruso reported she is working with Prada and a camera vendor for installing exterior security cameras on the Prada site.
- vi. *Special Meeting of the SSA Property Owners/Tenants:* the SSA Commission wants to convene a special meeting with landlords and tenants to explore alternative safety strategies other than patrol. Lombardo offered to go door to door to update the manager contact list of the SSA businesses and will ask Kristen Kerch, OSC Board Treasurer to send Caruso the contact list in about a week. Lopez offered to forward an email he sent to 67 people on Oak St. to help with the business contact list.
- vii. *State St. SSA Security:* Israel recommended having a discussion with HLSA Security and Michael Edwards of the Chicago Loop Alliance/State St. SSA before Labor Day to discuss the security program HSLA does for State St.

5. Website Management Contract

- a. Lombardo deferred discussion on this contract until the next meeting.

6. Tree Grates Management, Tree Trimming and Hanging Baskets Update

- a. **Tree Trimming:** Caruso reported she had a discussion with DPD and representatives from CDOT Bureau of Forestry regarding tree trimming and tree grate maintenance. BOF said to only send them a list of tree grates that may be impacting the health of the tree and not for aesthetic or repair reasons. BOF said to send them a list of trees needing trimming for the health of the tree and for safety reasons. Lombardo suggested all the tree grates be removed. Kearny offered to submit a list to CDOT for removal.
- b. **Hanging Baskets:** On the same call Caruso had with BOF, a BOF staff person stated the SSA would have to fund the hanging baskets starting in 2021, which was new information and very abrupt timing. The SSA Commission stated the baskets block views.

7. New Business

- a. No new business.

8. **Future Oak St SSA Commission Meetings**

- a. Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, September 14th, 2021, 9:00am at Razny Jewelers, 109 E. Oak (or Zoom if the Open Meetings Act restriction on in-person meetings is extended by the Governor)

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 10:25am

Motion: Lombardo **Second:** Israel

VOTE: Approve – All **Motion:** Passes

Minutes Submitted By: Gina Caruso, SSA Program Manager

Minutes Approved: 9/14/21