

Regular Meeting - Thursday, January 11th, 2024 12:00pm – 1:30pm

In-Person: 109 E. Oak St. Chicago, IL 60611

Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88279475691?pwd=cHFkcXFwaE1KTDBBZXlwcEdiWFhWQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 7947 5691 | Password: 015860

Commissioners Present In-Person: Pam Farley, Duke Miglin, Stan Razny

Commissioners Present Virtual: Rick Tannenbaum

Commissioners Absent: David Israel

Others in Attendance In-Person: Gina Caruso (Oak St Council/The Lord Companies, L.L.C.),
Anthony Ollmann, ASAIA & Oak Street Council;
Bobby Lopez, GRAFF & Oak Street Council, Jim Smith Sentinel Security

Others in Attendance – Virtual: Robert Kearney, Ald. Reilly's Office

Public in Attendance In-Person
and/or Virtual: None

Minutes

1. Welcome and Call to Order

- a. Razny called the meeting to order at 12:05pm

2. Public Input

- a. No public in attendance.

3. Approval of November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- a. On acceptance of the November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes:
Motion to accept the November 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Miglin

Second: Farley

VOTE: Approve – ALL

Motion Passes.

4. SSA Financials

Caruso asked for any questions on the SSA. Tannenbaum noted a high balance in the SSA checking account and status of opening the new SSA savings account. Caruso will follow up with Ollmann and BBIG on status. Tannenbaum asked about a metric for understanding collected SSA tax levy vs billed. Caruso to set up meeting with BBIG and Tannenbaum to discuss. Caruso reported that Oak Street Council is renewing the agreement with Almanza & Coombes, CPAs PLLC to conduct the 2023 SSA Audit.

5. Safety & Security

- a. Caruso opened the discussion regarding safety and security on Oak St. considering the 1/8/24 PRADA vehicular smash and grab.
 - Lopez stated that overnight security, blocking the streets 12am-6am and having CPD officers in parked cars walk the district would be effective solutions for reducing overnight crime.
 - Kearney reported that the Alderman's office is working with CDOT on approving P3 barriers for Michigan Ave., which will pave the way for Oak St. to have the same barriers and City process.
 - Razny suggested Oak Street Council consider hiring a lobbyist to work with the City and advocate for safety services.
 - Miglin recapped that the Oak St. SSA Commission is doing a 2-prong approach of a short-term solution and a long-term streetscape redesign.
 - The SSA Commission discussed the need for a short-term 90 day or so solution such as barriers. Caruso reported she was already working with Kearney on getting the City to install temporary barriers on Oak St.
 - Kearny stated the Oak Street Council should continue to coordinate with Deputy Chief Hein and Sgt. Sandoval.
 - Kearney stated he would contact CDOT Comm. Carney to request temporary concrete barriers on Oak St. Lopez offered to inventory Oak St. and recommend locations for barriers. Caruso will then forward those recommendations to Deputy Chief Hein for review/support.
 - Key next steps for security: attempt to get temporary City barriers on Oak St.; research SSA-funded barriers/planters; Kearney to follow up with City-approved pylon installation process; Caruso to get off-duty CPD officers mobile patrol scopes. Caruso to coordinate Special Meeting to review streetscape proposals.

6. Public Way & Traffic

- a. Miglin suggested scheduling an Special Meeting to review the streetscape proposals. Caruso will coordinate the meeting.

- b. Caruso asked the SSA Commission for any questions/comments on the proposed 2024 Landscaping contract renewal with Christy Webber Landscape. Caruso stated the increased price factored in the additional in-ground planters installed in 2023.

On acceptance of the 2024 Christy Webber Landscape contract renewal:

Motion to accept 2024 Christy Webber Landscape contract renewal:

Motion: Farley **Second:** Miglin

VOTE: Approve – ALL **Motion Passes**

7. Customer Attraction

- a. Caruso reported that the Oak Street District Guide was distributed to Oak St SSA businesses and area condominiums in December. Caruso reported that the district guide gives us a means to build relationships with area luxury hotel concierges. As part of the Oak St SSA marketing strategy for tourism, Caruso introduced Nicole Capsopoulos of Ateema. Capsopoulos stated that Ateema publishes and distributes *Concierge Preferred Magazine*, the exclusive magazine distributed 100+ downtown hotels and O’Hare. Ateema also has a Concierge Ambassador program to build relationships between Oak Street Council and concierges. Ateema provides metrics connecting our district guide with shoppers coming to Oak St. The SSA Commission prioritized doing an ad in Concierge Preferred magazine and the Concierge Ambassador program. The SSA Commission discussed ways to build loyalty and appreciation with concierges, including appreciation events and gift cards. Farley offered to investigate local restaurant gift cards.

- b. On acceptance of an Ateema contract:

Motion to accept an Ateema contract with a scope of *Concierge Preferred* magazine ads and Concierge Ambassador Program services:

Motion: Farley **Second:** Miglin

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

8. SSA Management

- a. Caruso reported she is working with Razny, Miglin and Tannenbaum on their SSA Commission seat renewals.
- b. Caruso opened discussion of setting the 2024 Oak St. SSA Commission meeting schedule. The SSA Commissioners asked Caruso to find out the minimum number of meetings required then reach out to the SSA Commissioners to finalize an annual schedule.
- c. Oak St. SSA Annual Meeting – agenda item deferred.

9. New Meeting Business

- a. No new business

10. Next Oak St SSA Commission Meeting

- a. See Item 8. SSA Management.

11. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn Miglin/Farley Adjourned at 2:15pm. APPROVED

Minutes Submitted By: Gina Caruso, SSA Program Manager APPROVED 3/12/24