

**GREEKTOWN SSA#16**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2016 MEETING MINUTES - AMENDED**

**Commissioners Attending**

Frank J. Caputo ("FC")  
Tom Bonanno ("TB")  
Eve Moran ("EM")  
Lorraine Rieff Liakouras ("LL")  
Tom Paspalas ("TP")  
Marc Washor, via proxy

**Commissioners Absent**

Michael Markellos

**Others Attending**

Dean T. Maragos ("DTM"), Advisor  
Rod Burch ("RB"), Executive Director of WCA  
Bill Tsourapas, Belvedere Financial, LLC.

**I. Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m. and there was a quorum present.

**II. Review of Meeting Minutes** - The September 22, 2016 SSA #16 Meeting Minutes were approved as written on motion by TP and seconded by FC. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Old Business.**

- a) **United Center Trolley Update** – DM reported that he reviewed the initial contract from the Trolley and it still needs some adjustments but it is in a form to be signed initially now with an addendum to be signed later. Motion made by TP and seconded by LL to accept the written contract and to have RB sign it on behalf of the SSA and WCA. The motion passed unanimously. FC reported on the project logistics and marketing. RB said the Trolley marketing must have a platform that will work with the restaurants on the internet and a link is important.
- b) **Establish Advisory Committee & Budget – Arts & Public Space** – EM discussed the new Advisory Committee for the Arts & Public Space.
  - 1) EM gave several good ideas and stated she is holding a meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> with Eva, Dalila Youkhana of Athena Restaurant and Rena Lee of the Hellenic Museum.
  - 2) EM is going to report at the next meeting after she meets with some artists and other individuals and do a walk through with Greektown.

- c) **Branding & Marketing Update** – We are awaiting the Idea Kitchen proposal. EM wants a “Artisan Residents Program” with the Hellenic Museum sponsorship and she will make this part of her Arts Committee. EM also stated that she would like a public/private partnership in order to raise some money. The new City Cultural Director Kelly has declared 2017 to be a Year of Public Art and EM will look into working with the City on that project.

#### **IV. New Business.**

- a) **Request for Qualifications – Greektown PR** – RB will prepare a RFQ draft and send it to all the SSA Commissioners on October 31, 2016 for comments. If there are no comments, he will issue the RFQ as he prepared it by 4:00 p.m. on November 1, 2016. There was a motion by FP and seconded by TB to permit this RFQ process to take place. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) **Idea Kitchen Invoice #1763** – There was discussion on the lack of timeliness and notice on this invoice. The Passport Program was not signed off and there was never a change order issued. RB will discuss this with Idea Kitchen and get back to us.
- c) **CTA Naming of Halsted Street Station** – There was a discussion of the CTA stop on the Blue Line to have it named the “UIC/Greektown Stop”. This will be reported on at the next meeting.
- d) **Light Poles** - City of Chicago will refurbish all poles on Halsted Street from Madison to Van Buren for \$134,600.00, and an additional \$25,000.00 for those on Monroe, Adams, Jackson and Van Buren from the Expressway to Green Street. EM will write down the address of unstable light poles noticed in neighborhood.
- e) **Greektown Signage** - FC contacted Chicago Department of Transportation regarding improving trailblazing signs coming off the Kennedy Expressway from the North and South ramps at Madison Street, and the southbound off ramp at Adams Street. Proposal to follow.
- f) **Decorations/Lights** - FC reports that Christmas decorations and Blue Cord lights on the monuments will be finished before Thanksgiving.
- g) **Passport** - The Greektown Passport should be complete by the end of next week. The rubber stamps are complete and have been distributed to business owners.
- h) **Names** - The name of the future park (Van Buren and Halsted monument location) has been changed from Elysian Plaza to Elysian Field. FC

contacted Alderman Walter Burnett regarding re-naming the UIC/Halsted El stop to UIC/Greektown.

- i) **Trolley** - Letter to Lou Canellis regarding his possible involvement in promoting the United Center Shuttle Greektown Trolley is attached. Also, attached, you will find the letter and flier FC distributed to business owners explaining the trolley pilot program, and its potential to benefit their businesses. Possible that we may use Creed Consulting to assist with marketing/promotion of the trolley – specifically, this consulting firm suggests posting the trolley on popular reservation smartphone app Eventbrite. This would allow us to track reservations (though not required to ride) for both the restaurants and the trolley.
- j) **CleanSlate Proposal** - Commissioners reviewed a proposal submitted by Clean Slate. RB stated strong interest in this company given they place mulch around tree bottoms and trim trees, clean light poles and work with several SSAs. FC reports that Bernie will clean the light poles in Greektown a few at a time, that cleaning supplies for this task have been purchased and bottom of waste bins have already been cleaned. As well, the tree trimming has been completed.
- k) **Ionic Columns/Signage** - Discussed purchase of 24 Ionic Columns at \$150.00 each which will display “Loading Zone” or “Valet Zone” signs where necessary throughout Greektown. All business owners in the area agree that the columns/signs will improve the appearance and aid traffic flow/safety in the area. Commissioners agree that columns will be respected more than the construction cones presently in use.
- l) **Flower Baskets** - FC reported on his conversation with Jeff Brink regarding flower baskets. Update: summer foliage has been removed and baskets cleaned to prepare for winter planting. City of Chicago recommends this happen to prevent sewer clogging from falling plants. Cost to replant is \$6,581.18. EM made a motion to approve, the motion was seconded by TP, and was approved unanimously. A new proposal will follow once an inspection of 15-17 poles for hanging additional baskets is completed.
- m) **AGB Security** - Commissioners reviewed security survey and it was agreed that Walgreens and two food stores need to hire internal security per the survey’s recommendations. The Greektown foot patrol is being reinstated. Given this, the need to move panhandlers and vagrants will be addressed. Commissioners decided not to hire a private security firm now.
- n) **Limestone Bench** - FC emailed Mark Donovan, Director of UIC Properties, offering the Limestone bench from the Van Buren/Halsted Monument site to UIC for their use.

- o) **Brochure Distribution** - FC met with a representative from CTM Brochure, a brochure distribution company and reports that this will be an excellent way to place our marketing materials in hotels throughout the city and suburbs.
- p) **Next SSA #16 Meeting** – The next SSA #16 meeting will be November 17, 2016.

**V. Adjournment.** There was a motion made at 5:06 p.m. by TP and seconded by TB to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.