

GREEKTOWN SSA#16

MARCH 23, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Attending

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

Others Attending

Dean T. Maragos ("DTM"), Advisor
Rod Burch ("RB"), Executive Director of WCA
Madelaine Kukanza, Katie Niemiec, Stephanie Reay, Bruce Bugil, Lou Mossos, Hank Zemola, John Theoharis, Ceasar Melidis, Leo Louchios, Yiannis Melidis, Alexander Theoharis, Maria Melidis, Pat Fitzgerald, Mike De Rouin, Hugo Alvarez, John Abell, Michael Ezgur, Gail Bilenko and Chris Garrity.

I. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. There was a quorum.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes – The February 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved on motion by TB and seconded by FC. The motion passed unanimously to amend the "Wine Festival" to "The Greek and Mediterranean Wine Festival". The March 13, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes were accepted as amended on motion by EM and seconded by TB. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report – RB stated the audit was happening at the current time by Tom Bravos the independent auditor and with Mike Roti our bookkeeper. The draft of the audit will be ready at the April meeting.

IV. Old Business

- A. Update: Zapwater** – Madelaine stated that there was a six month strategy being conducted by them and they were looking at issues of the Parade, Sculptures, Trolley, Media Mailers, and bi-weekly meetings with Frank Caputo, photos and social media. EM mentioned the "Street Art" program with Zapwater and they will welcome the community with art in 16 windows. Maria Melidis stated the Easter preparation and festivities must also be in the Zapwater program. RB stated he will add Easter to the calendar in the future. John Theoharis stated that he would like to meet with Zapwater on the Easter promotion and beautification.
- B. Update: Art & Space Committee – Brushing Up on Aristotle** - EM read the letter on the community street art to the commission. John Melidis wanted large portable pieces of art to be in the community. EM stated she is meeting at 319 W. Albany concerning art projects. EM stated she is creating a brochure and a handbook. There will be an outdoor gallery, there will be a children's handbook stating who Aristotle was and how to appreciate art in sculpture and there will be a walk through the community. EM explained what the Orlandi ten "dingys" were and each of the ten dingys will have different artists in Greek themes. They will be located on the east side of Halsted. Orlandi also did the cows in front of the Wrigley Building.

- C. Update: Van Buren/Halsted Street Crisis** – There was discussion on down zoning and a petition to down zone the northwest corner of Halsted and Van Buren Street. There was a motion by FC and seconded by TB to send a letter to the Alderman urging him to down zone this until the rat problem is resolved and the alley easement is resolved and there are issues concerning having the developer present the plan for its proposed project. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Update: Strategic Plan** – RB explained the strategic plan.
- E. Update: Fast Signs/ Orlandi Statuary** – They are going to replace the orange cones with new signs and Orlandi Statuary in front of the restaurants. The motif will be columnar artifacts and preserving the loading zone.

V. New Business

- A. 855 W. Adams Street – Proposed Development** – White Oak Realty Attorney Michael Ezgur made a presentation for 855 W. Adams and its proposed development and parking lots. John Abell of the presentation group stated they have public parking at Greek Islands and Adams & Jackson on Peoria. 855 W. Adams is a residential mixed use property and it will keep the parking in the area at 850 W. Jackson. Pat Fitzgerald the architect for the project also addressed the SSA and gave a proposal of 179 - 187 parking spaces for the community. Discussion ensued and Alex Theoharis asked if there was going to be a restaurant on the first floor and that they would welcome restaurants. FC said John Abell is an honorable person. John Melidis said they must have free parking and why do we need more parking. EM wants notice from the developer as to the hours of construction and days of construction at 820 W. Jackson. FC stated there must be a rodent abatement and must be addressed. Maria Melidis stated to advertise "Greektown" or "West Loop". Mr. Abell said he will advertise "Greektown". Maria wanted to know when they are coming to Halsted.
- B. 820 W. Adams Street – Zoning Change** - There was discussion by Michael Ezgur at the 820 W. Adams rooftop and green space. Current zoning is DX- 3 and they are requesting it to go to DX-7 and a plan development. Motion by TB and seconded by EM to approve the zoning change. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Greektown Banner Designs** – EM discussed the banner designs. Motion by EM and seconded by TB for proposed design approval. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Proposals:**
 - 1 Windy City Greek – Logo/Link on Even Calendar Page** – Susan Downs addressed the commission and said this was a newsletter and she asked for \$1,100 to put the logo in the newsletter. Motion made by TB and seconded by FC to approve. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 2 Ensosis – Greek Independence Day Parade** – TB and FC stated they want \$1,200 for a float in the Parade for advertising. Motion by TB and seconded by FC. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 3 Italian American Human Relations Foundation – Columbus Day Parade** – FC asked for \$3,000 for a float for advertising in the Italian Parade. Motion to approve made by EM and seconded by TB. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4 **National Hellenic Museum – Puppet Show** – FC asked for \$750 for the Hellenic Museum Children's Puppet Show. Motion to approve made by EM and seconded by TB. The motion passed unanimously.
- 5 **Chicago Greektown Educational Foundation** – Motion to table the issue concerning funding for the Chicago Greektown Educational Foundation until the next SSA #16 Meeting and to discuss the \$15,000 to be reviewed. Leo Louchios attended the meeting on behalf of the Foundation. Leo said the Foundation keeps the Greek culture in Greektown and throughout the City/ There's direct access to the Greek Community/ The Foundation Children attended the Christmas event in December 2016 and it was a very successful event/ The Elysian Plaza will also be augmenting and highlighting the Greek culture/ Get public relations for Greektown programs. This money is not for religious purposes. The SSA Commissioners will be featured on the Greek radio as they were last year. The Commission reviewed the presentation of the Dr. Koulos Foundation.
- 6 **Greek & Mediterranean Wine Tasting** – Hank Zemola from Chicago Special Events. John Theoharis asked for \$15,000 which traditionally had been for the Wine Festival. Social Media and Greek radio will be the advertising for this event. Line item "Events" 1.02 is where the money will be coming from. There was a motion for \$15,000 to be granted from 1.02 for the Wine event. Motion made by EM and seconded by LL. The motion passed unanimously.
- 7 **CTM Brochure Distribution – Presentation** – Where Magazine's Gail Bilenko and Chris Garrity made a presentation concerning Where Magazine's 500 locations in hotels and businesses. This was discussed at the meeting but not voted on.
- E. **SSA Commissioner – Ethics Forms Due: May 31, 2017** – FC reported that Oneida Pate handles the applications.
- F. **SSA Commissioner – Expiring Terms (Eve Moran, Thomas Bonanno)** – Eve Moran's and Tom Bonanno's terms will expire. FC's expires on 12/31/17.
- G. **SSA Commissioner – Review New Commissioner Application Process** – This will be done by RB.
- H. **Trolley – Chicago Blackhawks Playoffs** – The Trolley was reviewed concerning the Chicago Blackhawks' playoff season. There was a motion to continue the Trolley for the playoffs. Motion made by LL and seconded by TB. The motion passed unanimously to approve.

VI. Adjournment – At 5:30 p.m. there was a motion made for adjournment by LL, seconded by FC. The motion passed unanimously.