

**GREEKTOWN SSA#16
MARCH 28, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Attending

Frank J. Caputo, (FC)
Tom Bonanno (TB)
Anastasia Makridakis, (AM)
Alex Theoharis, (AT)
Lorraine Rieff Liakouras, (LL) via phone

Commissioners Absent

Eve Moran
Ceasar Melidis
Tom Paspalas
Marc Washor

Others Attending

Rod Burch, ("RB"), Exec. Director WCA
Dean T. Maragos, ("DTM"), Advisor
Susan Downs, ("SD")
Pauline Dengler
Nick Kalogeresis
Molly Mara
Bridget Keane
Gerda Varkuleviciute

I. Call To Order, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by SSA #16 Attorney, Dean Maragos. A quorum was not present.

II. Review and Vote on Approval of February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes – The February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. There was a motion by FC seconded by TB to approve the February 28, 2018 meeting minutes as written.

III. New Business

- A. CWI Strategies, Inc. – Contract Renewal** – FC stated that the contract was reviewed by him and the Certificate of Insurance protecting the SSA will be sent for this new contract. There was a motion by FC seconded by TB to approve the proposed contract with CWI Strategies, Inc. RB stated that he wanted an amendment to the motion to state that CWI must include a list of the projects being worked on within the body of their monthly invoices.
- B. Sparkfactor Annual Report – Proposal (\$995)** – RB showed the commissioners the SSA's 2017 annual report, produced by Sparkfactor. Sparkfactor prepares a professional binder and presentation of the SSA annual budget every year. There was a motion by TB seconded by FC to accept the proposal for \$995.
- C. Power Washing - Proposal** – FC reported that last year's power washing proposal amount was \$5,955.00 and they were seeking the same amount to clean up after the parade on May 19th and the Festival on August 19th. There were questions concerning the increase or decrease from the prior year of the cost. RB stated that in 2018 we spent \$6,055.00. There was a motion by FC seconded by TB to table this until the next meeting.
- D. Do 312 Marketing - Proposal** – There was discussion regarding concerns of the commission that there may not be enough happening/scheduled in Greektown to justify the monthly expense of \$750, or to create sufficient contact/traffic. RB stated that he wanted a termination clause in this proposal. Zapwater reported that they like the work of Do 312 on special events. There was a motion by FC

seconded by TB to take option two and spend \$750.00 per month. RB wanted a monthly report which was included in the motion.

- E. WGN Flags/Banners – Proposal (\$1,587.75)** – FC explained that the \$1,587.75 proposal included putting up the flags ahead of the May 5th Greek Parade. FC asked for new logos to be placed on the banners. AT discussed banner advertising for each restaurant on each banner. Flags and repairs of banners were in the motion made by AM, seconded by TB to pay \$1,587.75 to WGN for permanent banners to be proposed at the next SSA meeting.
- F. National Hellenic Museum 2019 Gala - Sponsorship** – There was a motion by TB seconded by AM to pay \$800 for a full-page ad in the Gala commemorative book.
- G. Chicago Children’s Theatre BOING Event (6/9/19) - Sponsorship** – RB stated we receive advertisement space, and have sponsored this annual event for the past three years. FC explained that with the six (6) tickets we receive as part of our \$1,000 sponsorship package we’re able to do a give-away on social media handled by Zapwater. There was a motion by AM, seconded by TB to move forward with a \$1,000 sponsorship of the BOING event.
- H. Elysian Field – Discussion of Alternative Names** – After discussion on alternative names there was a motion by AM seconded by TB that the park shall continue to be called “Elysian Field” after the cultural, mythological and historical name for Elysian Field.

FC provided an update on construction progress stating that the most current information suggests the park area may be ready as early as the end of June. It was discussed on the Elysian Field dedication to be in September, 2019 and to ask the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Governor, the Mayor, the Alderman, Jesse White and the Consulate General of Greece to be present.

IV. Old Business

A. Lakota Group –

a. Planters & Receptacles – There was no report as work and planning continue.

b. Strategic Plan FINAL – Nick Kalogeresis (NK) discussed the final report. He was asked if the Alderman agreed to downzone the DX-7 areas in the Greektown area. He stated the Alderman would be open to that but would like more discussion with the SSA. He stated the Alderman was also concerned about affordable commercial housing. NK stated the report was under budget by \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00 and the SSA asked him if we could discuss further activities that he could perform for the SSA in payment of the additional \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00. NK stated that he had merchant meetings and the merchants were very happy. NK explained that Lakota had a meeting with the alderman and professional consultants took another look to make final recommendations. NK reported that he spoke with the Museum about the Gladys Street Project and their concerns are parking for large buses and their staff.

V. Reports & Updates

- A. Zapwater Communications** – Molly Mara (MM) reported that last month one of Zapwater's biggest priorities was meeting with all merchants to get deliverables and work more closely with them on a regular basis. She stated the experience was beneficial.

Last week Zapwater and RB and FC met with Hellenic Heartbeat to ask for some deliverables in order to allow Zapwater to better assess/make a recommendation regarding the sponsorship proposal submitted by Hellenic Heartbeat. MM cautioned that if there is a consensus to move forward, Zapwater will provide Hellenic Heartbeat with events/items for coverage, requiring more consistency from Hellenic Heartbeat this year.

Zapwater attended the flag raising on Monday, March 25th and had a video of the event produced. They will share it once it is finalized.

Zapwater is also working with a food company for the proposed food crawl event, and will provide recommendations once we receive a proposal for them.

MM reported that Zapwater's focus in the next month will be Greek Easter, and stated that SD is assisting in efforts to source specials from different merchants.

- B. Hellenic Heartbeat Sponsorship Meeting** – FC reports that there are many unknowns and questions even following the recent meeting: Do we know what they have aired? How can we get that content into our possession? FC stated that Hellenic Heartbeat (HH) has been told that they need to follow-up with Zapwater. AT asked whether HH was notified about the meeting today. RB responded that HH was asked to submit this information prior to the meeting, and that they had not yet done so. RB stated that we had no control over the HH and they're asking for \$2,500 per month. RB wanted frequency and reach for the new amount of money. AT wanted deliverables, a termination clause and they must attend the SSA meetings. Discussion was going to be had at the next SSA meeting after a new meeting with Zapwater before the April 25th SSA meeting.

- C. Chairman Update – Security/Additional CPD (impact in Greektown) -**
FC reported that there has not been any recent issue with Drinkhaus beyond the double parking and traffic congestion being reported by AGB Security. FC stated that Drinkhaus had the audacity to take orange barrels from a nearby construction site to block all the parking on Jackson between Green and Halsted streets.

AT stated that on March 26th between 8-9 p.m. there was a man running on the east side of Halsted and that there was an altercation of some sort. RB would follow up with Sergeant Gurtowski to see if there was any police report on the March 26th incident. AM stated that DrinkHaus has caused major problems in the community including congestion, parking and safety and Drinkhaus does not attend the SSA meetings nor the CAPS meetings in violation of their Plan of Operation.

DTM stated that April 2nd is the next status of the Vice investigation. He is waiting to see the charging documents filed against them. Penalties from charges levied by Vice are severe. The Plan of Operation violation(s) can be another charge and result in the revocation of their liquor license. DTM stated that he submitted a report, the contents of which may be used to increase the charges against them.

FC hopes to restore more police patrol in the neighborhood. He stated he spoke with the Commander and asked for a bike patrol. FC stated he would hear back from the Commander.

- D. Program Manager Update – Finance Committee 2020 Budget** - RB reported that he FC and DTM were already working on the 2020 budget. They attended a workshop given by Department of Planning and Development. RB asked whether anyone else wanted to be involved in the Finance Committee. RB explained that the process which has already begun takes until the end of November by the time the City Council approves what we submit. The budget serves as a guide, because unfortunately we can't obtain the numbers from the vendors so far in advance. DTM pointed out that an advantage is our ability to move money from a line item to another line item, if and when necessary. RB hoped a draft would be ready by the next meeting, but pointed out it will need to be approved by the commission. RB stated the Budget draft has to be submitted by June 7, 2019.

RB stated the Statements of Economic and Financial Interests are due by May 1, 2019 for all commissioners for their renewal.

VI. Community Participation –

- A. Pauline Dengler reported that two (2) of the defendants from the Taco Burrito King shooting pled. Carter received a seven (7) year sentence followed by three (3) years mandatory supervision. Marco received one (1) year of probation and thirty (30) hours community service. The case against Tariq Anderson is still pending.

The hijacking case is still pending; there will be a motion on April 23rd.

Greystar Management Group representative from the Van Buren, Gerda Varkuleviciute introduced herself and stated that she would like to be involved in sponsorships.

VII. Adjournment – There was a motion to adjourn at 4:24 p.m. by FC, seconded by AT. The next SSA #16 Commissioner meeting is April 25, 2019.