

GREEKTOWN SSA#16

JULY 9, 2024 MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Commissioners Attending

Frank J. Caputo, (FC),
Anastasia Makridakis, (AM)
Tom Paspalas, (TP)
Constantine Vitogiannis, (CV)

Others Attending

Rod Burch, (RB), Exec. Director WCA
Tia Angelos, (TA), Program Director
Dean T. Maragos, (DTM), Advisor
Henry Crilly, 34th Ward
Adam Glueckert, 34th Ward
Osualdo Caraballo, Jr., CPD
Jonathan Smith, CPD
Joel Rieff, Chicago Parthenon Hostel
Matthew Jennison, Chicago Parthenon Hostel

Commissioners Absent

Eve Moran
Lorraine Rieff-Liakouras
Maria Tsourapas

I. Call to Order, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Community Participation – There was no community participation.

III. Review and Vote on Approval of SSA #16 May 21, 2024 and June 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes – There was a motion made by AM and seconded by FC to approve as written the May 21, 2024 meeting minutes and the June 5, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

- A. Peerless Building Lease Renewal – There was much discussion on the lease. The Commissioners decided to accept the lease as written in the latest proposal that was offered to the landlord to the SSA. There was a motion by TP and seconded by AM to accept the lease for two years with the terms that are on the most recent terms. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Budget 2025 –
- C. Heron Agency Addendum for Newsletter – TA stated to the Commissioners that currently the annual Social Media cost is \$2,000.00 but she wants to raise it to \$3,000.00 to obtain 60,000 subscribers of the Heron Agency. There was a motion by TP and seconded by CV for an additional \$1,000.00 per month to cover the additional newsletter activities to be produced by Heron Agency. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. National Hellenic Museum Gala Sponsorship – There was much discussion and there was a motion by FC and seconded by AM to purchase a \$5,000.00 “Friend Sponsorship” and receive a full page ad for \$400.00. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Taste of Greektown Proposal – This matter was deferred until the next SSA meeting.
- F. Chicago Marathon Cheer Station Proposal – TA stated that last year we did a tent with amenities, and she suggested that we do that again this year. There was a motion by TP

and seconded by AM to pay \$5,500.00 for the Cheer Station. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Safety and Security – TA stated that she had seen people smoking marijuana at Elysian Field. She informed the merchants to call 911. There was also a statement by the Alderman's representatives that there is a curfew at 11 p.m. Officer Cantu has stated there are also problems with people drinking beer behind the Hellenic Museum. The issue of security of the SSA was discussed. FC and RB deferred to Officer Smitty who said that he spoke to the Greektown merchants. Officer Ozzie said all parties when they see alleged infractions of the law must immediately call 911.

It was also stated that the SSA should talk with Lorraine, who owns the Parthenon building and discuss with her a program where she could participate in the safety aspects of the SSA program. Adam Glueckert from the Alderman's office stated that he had requested information from the Mayor's office and still has not received anything from the Mayor's office. It was then decided to prepare a safety report for the SSA commencing on July 10 through August 10 and for any member of the community or the SSA or the WCA who see alleged violations of the law to immediately take photos of the violations. Later, print those photos in 8 ½ x 11" and have the photographer write their name, the time, the date and the place where the photos were taken and the name of the illegal activity. We will also have Blue Line Security Force also take photos and give the same information. Blue Line also stated they will engage with bad actors in the community.

Next, it was suggested to contact the Alderman to determine who is the liaison for the migrant program in the Greektown area. AM stated she was President of the organization known as 777. Officer John Smitty gave photos to the 35th Street Police headquarters. Officer Ozzie stated to bring the photos to the Alderman who can also request an "Overtime Initiative" which would allow Officers to receive additional pay while they monitor the Greektown area to prevent crime all hours of the day. It was also stated that Yannis Theoharis was collecting a petition for Beat Officers. It was stated however, that there are already two Beat Officers operating in a car and two Beat Officers on foot in our area. The community wants the SSA in daytime to protect the community. The SSA has done everything it can in its power and will do everything in its power to secure safety in the community.

Joel Rieff was at the meeting and was representing the building owners at the Parthenon Building. He addressed the SSA and stated that there was only one entrance & exit to their property for security reasons. He stated that any person unannounced would be challenged and their intent is to prevent crime. Joel said they have not seen any smoking of marijuana. There is an 11 p.m. curfew. Some of the migrants have jobs. Many of the migrants are making money through private work and are able to eat outside of the Parthenon area. Joel also stated the staff of the Parthenon is keeping the area clean. A question was asked concerning loitering and Joel did not have an answer for that. Joel did not inform the SSA who the management company is who is managing the Parthenon Migrants Facility. There will be a FOIA request of the City to determine who runs the shelter at 310 S. Halsted Street. RB stated they now have 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. security. RB said we have the funds for additional hours to patrol the area.

The Hellenic Museum should have some photos concerning possible infractions behind the building and in front of the building. There was a motion by TP and seconded by AM

to utilize the additional \$30,000 in the 2025 Budget to increase security in the Greektown area in keeping with the Blue Line company currently hired for security. The motion passed unanimously.

FC reported that the Gallagher Asphalt sample shown at the meeting is being implemented. FC had a photo to share with the Commission, but it was deferred until the next SSA meeting when Eve Moran would be in attendance.

V. Reports & Updates

- A. Chairman Report – The Chairman Report was deferred until the next SSA meeting.
- B. Art Chair Report – The Art Chair Report was deferred until the next SSA meeting.
- C. Program Manager/Sole Service Provider Report – RB stated there was no change in the budget due to the increase in the EAV which is at \$3 million.
- D. Security Committee Report – This was already discussed at length in Safety & Security.

VI. Adjournment – At 4:30 p.m., there was a motion by TP and seconded by AM to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The next SSA #16 Commissioner meeting will be on September 17, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the SSA office.