

# GREEKTOWN SSA#16

## OCTOBER 22, 2024 MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

### Commissioners Attending

Frank J. Caputo, (FC)  
Eve Moran, (EM)  
Lorraine Rieff-Liakouras, (LL)  
Anastasia Makridakis, (AM)  
Maria Tsourapas, (MT)  
Constantine Vitogiannis, (CV)

### Others Attending

Rod Burch, (RB), Exec. Director WCA  
Tia Angelos, (TA), Program Director  
Dean T. Maragos, (DTM), Advisor  
Andrew Burton, 77 W. Gladys Condo Assn.

### Commissioners Absent

Tom Paspalas

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Community Participation** – There was no community participation.

**III. Review and Vote on Approval of SSA #16 September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – There was a motion made by FC and seconded by MT to approve as written the September 17, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. New Business**

- A. Crosswalks & Van Buren Intersection Painting Project – FC stated that he had been working with the company on the crosswalk. FC explained the negotiations and informed the company that we must have the Santorini blue color on the artifact. There was a motion by EM and seconded by MT to accept the crosswalk construction on Halsted and Madison St., Van Buren and Halsted St., and Halsted and Monroe St. The motion passed unanimously. There was not an approval for Adam St. or Jackson St. because the Illinois Department of Transportation stated that land was State land and was outside of the SSA's jurisdiction.

There was a crosswalk report given and explained by FC. The cost of the crosswalks was \$262,860.23. \$200,000 has been paid to the vendor to date. There was a remaining \$62,860.23 to be paid. There was a motion by EM and seconded by MT that the design as presented by FC at the SSA meeting and as circulated and approved by commissioners to be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

There was another motion made by EM and seconded by AM that the balance of \$62,860.23 be approved. Any additional amount above but not to exceed \$20,000 is also approved. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Security Camera Rebate (Updated) – Changes TA explained that the National Hellenic Museum (NHM) is an eligible applicant to receive \$1,500.00 for the first installment. \$1,500.00 was the updated amount. There was a motion made by AM and seconded by CV to approve that amount. The motion passed unanimously.

Changes to the Greektown Special Service Area (SSA) 16 Security Grant Pilot Program 2024 Guidelines and Application. On page 1 (attached), the second paragraph under "1. Description" shall read "Applicants that meet all Program requirements outlined in this document may receive a Grant of up to \$3,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> time installation of eligible costs and up to \$1,500 per updated project. Applications are subject to review and approval by the Commission. A property shall only be awarded a Grant once every three years unless the Commission is shown satisfactory proof of extraordinary circumstances".

On page 10 (attached), under 4. Grant Amounts, "The Commission may award a Grant at an amount less than or more than the allowable maximum where circumstances dictate. In each such instance, the Commission will report on these factors it considers material."

- C. NHM Security Rebate Application – TA reported that the NHM has a new reimbursement application for \$8,737.19. After much discussion EM stated that the NHM has a positive effect on the community and the cameras will assist with safety.
- D. Greek Consulate Author Event at NHM – TA stated that the NHM wants two sponsorships. One sponsorship is for the Greek Consulate and the second sponsorship is for the Homerathon. Both of these events get people to dine in Greektown.

The SSA Commissioners discussed the Jeffrey Eugenides Event in an amount of \$3,500.00. This would be a co-sponsorship with another organization. The SSA Commissioners want to receive more recognition for their co-sponsorship at these events for the SSA's marketing. The Marketing Committee will meet and report on what their recommendations are about increasing our visibility. The Commission stated they will not be able to fund the Homerathon but they will review the possibility of \$3,500.00 for a co-sponsorship at the next meeting.

- E. Mertes Proposal for Graffiti – There was discussion on the protection of the columns and other artifacts from graffiti. After the discussion, TA explained what the issues are. There was a motion made by FC and seconded by EM to pay \$3,248.00 for Mertes to remove the graffiti off of the column on Adams Street. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Mertes Proposal for Column Coating – There was a motion made by CV and seconded by AM to apply the "graffiti guard" coating on the columns to protect them from graffiti. The motion passed unanimously.
- G. Chicago Greektown Educational Foundation (CGEF) Sponsorship Proposal – The Commissioners were very favorably disposed toward the advertising and marketing strength of the CGEF Sponsorship for Greektown SSA. The art program and the Christmas Tree lighting are both a huge Public Relations success. We received increased marketing and advertising positive feedback after these events. There was a motion by MT and seconded by AM to approve the \$20,000.00 for the CGEF funds for advertising. The motion passed unanimously.

## V. Reports & Updates

- A. Chairman Report – FC reported on the Columbus Day Parade. TA informed the Commission of all the wonderful accolades the event held for the parade. There were

many organizations represented at the parade. The Columbus Day Parade was a success.

- B. Art Chair Report – 5 new boats have been added to the art program.
- C. Program Manager/Sole Service Provider Report – There was no report.
- D. Security Committee Report – There was much discussion among the commissioners concerning the increase in crime in the neighborhood. The commissioners stated they would like to notify the Alderman and the police and have them address this issue. This matter will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

**VI. Closed Session** – At 2:15 p.m. there was a motion by EM and seconded by AM to go into closed session on an employment matter. The motion passed unanimously. After a short discussion the SSA Commissioners decided to bring this up at the next meeting. At 2:30 p.m. there was a motion made by FC and seconded by EM to get out of closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. Adjournment** – At 2:40 p.m., there was a motion by CV and seconded by AM to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The next SSA #16 Commissioner meeting will be on November 19, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the SSA office.