

GREEKTOWN SSA#16

JUNE 16, 2026 MEETING MINUTES – FINAL

Commissioners Attending

Eve Moran, (EM)
Frank J. Caputo, (FC)
Lorraine Rieff-Liakouras, (LL)
Anastasia Makridakis, (AM)
Maria Tsourapas, (MT)
Constantinos Vitogiannis, (CV)
Xenia Theoharis, (XT)
Nicholas Kriarakis, (NK)

Others Attending

Patti Doyle, (PD), Exec. Director WCA
Tia Angelos, (TA), Program Director
Dean T. Maragos, (DTM), Advisor
Paul Groshko, Spavia
Janet Kashuba, National Hellenic Museum
Brian Narug, Crowne Plaza Chicago West Loop
Tessa Cecchin, Landscape Concepts, Mgmt.
Cary Hall, CPA

Commissioners Absent

A. Thomas Paspalas

I. Call to Order, Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

II. Community Participation – Tessa Cecchin a Business Development Manager with Landscape Concepts Mgmt., addressed the Commission and informed them of what her company does concerning community maintenance.

III. Review and Vote on Approval of SSA #16 Minutes from May 26, 2026 – There was a motion by CV and seconded by LL to accept the May 26, 2026 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. 2025 Audit – Independent Auditor Cary J. Hall, audited the financial statements for the SSA. He addressed all items of the audit. There was a motion by CV and seconded by EM to vote to approve the audit as written and presented to the SSA. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Closed Session - There was a motion by EM and seconded by CV to go into closed session concerning employment matters. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by EM and seconded by CV to come out of closed session. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Draft 2027 Workplan Budget – TA and PD presented the Workplan Budget concerning 2026 and 2027. There was much discussion about the budget, and each line was individually considered. The 2027 Workplan Budget was proposed to have an RFP for landscaping and an RFP for power washing. There must be a rat control program. There is going to be a committee formed to discuss empty store fronts on Halsted. The Commissioners finished their review. There will be a final review at the next meeting and there will be a vote taken at that time.

D. CGEF Ad Proposal 2026 – The Commission wanted Chicago Greektown Education Foundation (CGEF), who asked for \$20,000, to give specific reasons for the Education

Foundation. We will be waiting for PD to see if we can donate. This topic was deferred to the next meeting.

- E. Taste of Greektown Rebate 2026 Proposal – This topic was deferred to the next meeting.
- F. NHM Gala 2026 Ad - There was a motion made by EM and seconded by AM to approve \$400 for an ad in the NHM Gala Ad Book. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports & Updates

- A. Chair Report – EM welcomed the new Commissioners, Paul Groshko, Xenia Theoharis and Nicholas Kriarakis, and wished them well.

EM thanked TA and the volunteers who made the Greektown July 9th Independence Day event a success.

EM also thanked Tia for extraordinary work on developing the June 9 art opening event for this special 2026 year. It takes thinking, planning, budget mindfulness & lots of logistics coordination.

Also, EM stated that Louie Mosses worked with her to have 9 schools participate in painting sculptures for the exhibit. (He delivered and retrieved these art pieces from the schools). And, this year Tia helped the art project by delivering or sending out 4 canvas pieces to the Greek schools & collecting these 4 artworks.

EM also mentioned a special “Thank You” to Tia’s children Chloe, George & Athan for their time & effort on June 9. We are fortunate to have such good volunteers that took care of so many set-up items.

Further, other kindnesses in support of the June 9 event must be recognized.

Tessie Koumi brought us a meaning performance from **Meagan Smallwood**. Her singing of The Star-Spangled Banner was splendid and meaningful on this occasion.

Constantine and everyone at **Mr. Greek Gyros** pitched in to preheat the dogs and chop-up fresh condiments such as onions and tomatoes.

EM also thanked the **National Hellenic Museum** for opening on June 9 and offering Free admission. EM mentioned that many artists and others were delighted at this fine opportunity. We want to explore more such collaborations.

EM will be sending “Thank You” letters to all these donors.

EM stated the program on June 9 went very well. She heard nice comments from the audience about the keynote presentations that detailed the influence of Ancient Greek Thinkers on the values and ideals that our Country holds so dear. And the speakers also stirred us with their beautiful reflections on inspirational Greek individuals building our beloved Greektown. EM is certain that the art of Greek schools brought in by the Greektown Educational Foundation together with a strong group of professional and emerging artists will serve to delight & stimulate everyone.

Other

EM and TA have been super busy this past month. They aim to work on revamping our website and revising some requisite documents & information in the coming weeks.

B. Art Chair Report –

There are 19 beautifully painted sculptures on Greektown sidewalks. This includes artworks by 8 Greek schools that were selected and coordinated for delivery and pick-up by the Greektown Educational Foundation. A 9th school's artwork came in late for weatherizing & will need a special delivery to Greektown. EM is checking about Orlandi cost to bring it into the neighborhood or if Louie will do it.

As a special this year, there are wonderful artworks on canvas either inside, or in the windows of businesses and residences across Greektown. This adds to our neighborhood's vibrancy.

Media: We'll soon blast photos of these works preferably in photos with owners or staff at these establishments. It's a get to know our community kind of thing!!!

Notably, 4 of these canvas artworks were beautifully painted by Greek schools. These are inside Spectrum and Greek Islands, and two are in the windows of Athenian Candle.

While all of the art is lovely, EM wanted to direct everyone's attention to a striking artwork honoring a "woman poet & patriot" of the Revolution that is on display at the Hellenic Museum.

This portrait by Maureen Warren is significant because women were active and contributed much to the founding of America & yet are often overlooked.

C. Program Director Report/Sole Service Provider Report

Program Director Report – TA reviewed highlights from Heron Social Media monthly reports and Elizabeth Neukirch PR updates regarding press releases for the 2026 Public Art Event & August Taste of Greektown. TA thanked all who attended the June 9th celebration and ribbon cutting. Vienna Beef donated hot dogs & buns, Mariano's donated & delivered 150 festive popsicles, and Moka & Co graciously donated the coffee. TA has also been working with CAPS to schedule the next Coffee with a Cop for a September date. Additionally, TA reported updates regarding increased homeless sleeping near the monuments and sidewalks.

Sole Service Provider Report – There was no Sole Service Provider report.

D. Security Committee Report – There was no Security Committee Report.

VI. Adjournment – At 3:53 p.m. there was a motion by CV and seconded by EM to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The next SSA #16 Commissioner meeting will be on July 7, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the SSA office.