

# WEST TOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES MAY 1, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Stelios Valavanis, Greg Mack

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Walter Tun, Chris Ongkiko, Petar Tofovic,  
Bob O'Connell, Darcy O'Connell, Cheryl Jones

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katharine Wakem (West Town SSA Program Manager), Beth Moens (Chicago Dept. of Housing and Economic Development), Kimberly Bares (PLACE Consultant), Leslie Jacobs (Consultant)

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Stelios Valavanis at 11:05 am.

**II. Materials Passed Out:** Agenda and the following maps:

Proposed SSA Map showing current SSA area (yellow), current SSA area being removed (black) and new area being proposed (green)

Aldermen Map showing proposed SSA with Aldermanic ward overlay—Burnett (blue), Moreno (green) and Fioretti (pink)

**III. Survey Results:** A door-to-door survey was conducted in the proposed new areas of the SSA – Ashland Avenue from Division to Chicago and Milwaukee Avenue from Division to Racine. Those who completed the survey included Business Owners, Business Managers, Property Owners and Residents. Some fell into more than one category. A summary of the results follow:

Ashland Avenue: Of 46 respondents, 7 stated that they did not want services. The remaining respondents said that their businesses and/or area would benefit from services, with 50% saying they would like West Town Chamber to provide them and the rest unsure as to how or who should provide them. The three top services were Façade Improvement (72%), Special Events (69%) and Neighborhood Beautification (65%).

Milwaukee Avenue: Of 16 respondents, 1 stated s/he did not want services. Of those wanting services, 6 want West Town Chamber to provide the services, and 9 did not know or did not respond. Neighborhood Beautification and Special Events were tied, with 86% of respondents wanting these services. Marketing, Sidewalk Garbage Cans and Snow Plowing were also tied, with 79% wanting these services.

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Note that the eastern side of the Milwaukee Avenue survey area consists of a residential co-op. Alderman Burnett's assistant, Avis, is on the board of the co-op and will present the SSA proposal to the owners once it is determined what the additional tax cost will be for them.

- IV. **Vote on Map:** Based on the survey results, those present are in favor of keeping Ashland Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue within the proposed SSA. The other members of the SSA Advisory Committee will be polled by email to see if they are in concurrence.
- V. **SSA Services:** Kimberly Bares recommends that a full menu of services be included in the new SSA's enabling ordinance. This is how it is being done in other SSAs because it allows different types of services to be provided down the road when and if needed.
- VI. **SSA Budget:** Katharine Wakem and Leslie Jacobs will prepare what would be a typical one-year budget for the proposed SSA. At the same time, PLACE Consulting will identify the SSA properties (PINS) in order to determine what the cost will be for the SSA taxpayer.
- VII. **Vision Statement:** The following revised Vision Statement was agreed upon:  
  
*To improve West Town SSA business districts by providing services that support businesses and residents and keeps West Town competitive, pedestrian friendly and brings visitors to West Town so that it becomes a destination for shopping, dining, professional services, entertainment and culture. The SSA will provide supplemental services that the City does not provide.*
- VIII. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the SSA Advisory Committee will be held in September.
- IX. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.