

# WEST TOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES APRIL 5, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Darcy O'Connell, Cheryl Jones, Greg Mack

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Walter Tun, Chris Ongkiko, Petar Tofovic  
Bob O'Connell, Stelios Valavanis

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kara Salgado (West Town Chamber Director), Katharine Wakem (West Town SSA Program Manager), Anne Coakley (Chicago Dept. of Housing and Economic Development), Kimberly Bares (Consultant), Noah Gordon (Consultant), Leslie Jacobs (Consultant)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Katharine Wakem at 12:10 pm.
- II. **Materials Passed Out:** Agenda, two sets of Power Point presentations (DHED's and Consultant's), copy of survey, proposed SSA map and timeline. (Attached)
- III. **Review of 2012 Reconstitution & Expansion Process:** Last attempt to reconstitute and expand the SSA failed due to the following reasons:
  - Those opposed were very vocal and well-organized. They presented both signed petitions and testimony at the public hearing.
  - Alderman Moreno did not think enough supporters were in attendance at the public hearing.
  - Department of Housing and Economic Development (DHED) did not think there were enough petition signatures in favor of the SSA. DHED requirement of obtaining 5% of property owners and renters' signatures was exceeded (7.5% was collected), but was still considered unacceptable.

This time the West Town Chicago Chamber of Commerce (WTCCC) will do the following:

- Eliminate those areas of the proposed SSA where there was opposition
  - Collect signatures from 20% of SSA property owners and renters
  - Send out more than the required one mailing to taxpayers
  - Survey those in the expanded portions of the SSA (door-to-door) to find out if they want SSA services. If they do not, these areas will not be included in the final map.
- IV. **Chair and Vice Chair Chosen:** Stelios Valavanis was nominated to be Chair. Katharine Wakem will follow up with him to see if he accepts the nomination. Cheryl Jones agreed to be Vice-Chair.

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V. **Vision Statement:** Current SSA vision statement was reviewed. The following suggestions to improve the vision statement were made:

- Add a phrase about being competitive with other commercial districts in the City
- Include the SSA giving support to residents in addition to businesses
- Take out the word “nightlife” because it has negative connotations with some residents
- Include statement about the SSA providing supplemental services that the City does not provide

VI. **Vote on Preliminary SSA Map:** The proposed SSA map was presented. It was noted that the SSA map is completely separate from the Ward Re-map, but that it is necessary to keep the Ward Re-map in mind since the Aldermen have final say in the establishment of the SSA and its boundaries.

Anne Coakley will look into whether the proposed SSA contains a TIF and/or Enterprise Zone. If it does, it is probably a very small area and would have little or no impact on the SSA.

The three Committee members present voted yes to the proposed SSA map as presented. Katharine Wakem added that, earlier in the day, both Chris Ongkiko and Stelios Valavanis voted in favor of the proposed map.

VII. **Time Line:** The next meeting date of the Advisory Committee will be in early May. Over the next four weeks, the door-to-door survey within the proposed new SSA areas will take place. The survey results will be presented at the May meeting, and with this information, the Committee will decide on the final SSA map and the SSA services to be provided.

Following the May meeting, the consultants will pull the PINs and staff will build the budget. The Committee will meet again in September to set the tax cap.

VIII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.