

West Town Chicago Chamber of Commerce
Special Service Area (SSA) Reconstitution / Expansion Community Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Advisory Committee: Stel Valavanis (Chair), Walter Tun, SSA Commission: Greg Whipple

WTCC Executive Director – Kara Salgado

SSA Program Manager – Kace Wakem

SSA Reconstitution Consultant – Kimberly Bares & Noah Gordon

Communications Director - Lisa Pugliese

City of Chicago – Annie Coakley, Department of Housing & Economic Development

Alderman Offices: Timothy Stevens (chief of staff) from Alderman Fioritti's office

I. Presentation Start: Kara Salgado welcomed everyone and began presentation at 6:45pm.

II. Power Point Presentation:

- Overview of Special Service Areas: Kimberly Bares (Reconstitution Consultant) gave overview of the West Town SSA maps & city-wide SSA explanation
- Stel Valavanis introduced Advisory Committee, the SSA Commission, reviewed need for the SSA, the SSA Vision, the SSA's current initiatives, surrounding SSAs and the steps of the Reconstitution so far.
- Kace Wakem reviewed the Needs Assessment survey results
- Greg Whipple reviewed the proposed 2015 budget & budget pie chart, compared it to the 2011 overall all SSAs budget pie chart to show that our budgets are in line, and discussed what the SSA will cost them.
- Kimberly Bares reviewed how the budget is created, how the property tax works, understanding your property tax calculator, tax rate comparisons & tax caps between SSAs, tax cap scenarios, impact of SSA levy on property taxes, priorities for the 5 years, next step in the reconstitution process, and impact of TIF districts

III. Question & Answers:

- Stel Valavanis (stakeholder) wanted to discuss the difference between what TIF's fund and what SSAs fund.
- Norman Olson (stakeholder) asked what interaction between an Enterprise zone and an SSA.
- Alisa Hauser (journalist) asked how many PINs are in the new SSA and old SSA. Asked about sharing vendors and SSAs purchasing services in bulk with other SSAs.
- Samantha (UVNA) asked where the power point presentation would be made available to the public.
- Jack Perno (non-stakeholder) asked for a show of hands as to who is in the SSA expansion area. Questioned outreach efforts.
- Reviewed outreach efforts which included door to door surveying, door to door delivery of brochure & community meeting announcement, mailed brochure &

community meeting announcement to all PIN list contact & registered voters within the proposed SSA map.

- Normal Olson (stakeholder) verified outreach efforts.
- Carmine M. (stakeholder) had questions about snowplowing.
- Dominy Edwards (non-stakeholder) questioned how the SSA benefits residents.
- Aaron Swerdlove (non-stakeholder) made slanderous accusations.
- Doug O'Donahue (stakeholder) complained about size of budget and amount of salaries.
- Orest H. (stakeholder) stated the SSA has cleaned up the area in the past 10 years and made it a place where people want to live and tourists want to visit.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 13, 2014, 6:00pm at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art