

**Lincoln Avenue SSA #35
Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2010 – Koenig & Strey, 2626 N. Lincoln Avenue**

Present: Neer Patel, Joe Quartana, Sam Sanchez, Jeannine Simkus

LPCC Staff: Loren Dinneen

Call to Order

- I. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Patel.

Approval of Minutes

- II. Approval of 1/21/10 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 1/21/10. Motion Seconded. Unanimously Approved.

Misc.

- III. Sidewalk Cleaning
 - A. Patel mentioned that he met the new attendant from CleanStreet who is responsible for cleaning the sidewalks. He communicated that the he is polite and has been doing good work.
 - B. Patel asked if Dinneen would investigate what the cost would be to have a onetime cleaning of debris and gravel from Lincoln Avenue. Dinneen said that he would.
 - C. Patel expressed that he would also like to research the possibility of increasing the days of service. Dinneen said that he would research that as well.

Reports

- IV. 2009 Audit
 - A. Simkus explained the audit for Lincoln Ave SSA #35 for 2009.
 - B. Patel asked why our postage expenses increased so much from 2008 to 2009. Dinneen did not know exactly why, surmised it was attributable to the accounting of the previous SSA manager.
 - C. Dinneen explained that there were no significant issues to note in the audit other than the estimated carryover. The carryover was mainly attributable to two Big Belly Solar Trash Compactors that were not purchased.
 - D. Quartana expressed that he felt that 2011 will be a tough year economically and he thinks the tax assessments will be lower and have a negative impact on our levy.
 - E. Patel expressed that he felt that the audit could be prepared better in coming years.
 - F. Quartana agreed and asked Dinneen to bring the auditor to next year's meeting when the audit is discussed and approved. Dinneen agreed.

Motion to approve the 2009 Lincoln Ave SSA #35 Audit. Motion Seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

- V. Financials
- A. Simkus provided an overview of the year-to-date financials. Simkus pointed out that we have repaid our loan in full. She explained that we are continuing to receive levy income.
 - B. Simkus made note of the holiday decorations expense and explained that we pay one third of our holiday decorations contract in the following year.
 - C. Simkus also noted that there will be a significant cost reduction in the expense for sidewalk cleaning services as we have begun using Cleanstreet as our vendor.
 - D. Quartana asked how long the current sidewalk cleaner will be dedicated solely to our street. Dinneen expressed that he thought it was a six month cycle.
 - E. Patel expressed that he was concerned that the sidewalk cleaner was using private dumpsters to dispose of garbage. Dinneen said he would investigate but has not received any complaints yet.

New Business

- IV. 2011 Draft Budget and Work Plan
- A. Quartana expressed that he is interested in researching ways that we can help the local business community. He did not have suggestions but wanted to brainstorm.
 - B. Sanchez said that people will always complain when they get taxed and no matter what you deliver to them, they will not be happy.
 - C. Patel expressed that we have decreased expenses for several years now and only have the budget to perform the clean and green services. He suggested that we max out all the services that we currently provide.
 - D. Quartana expressed that he is interested in doing something low cost that would benefit all people and would be appreciated. For example, a guide that listed all City of Chicago services and contact information. Quartana felt that there are lots of programs out there that the public is not aware of that they should be made aware of.
 - E. Dinneen expressed that he does not feel that this idea is within the mission of the SSA.
 - F. Simkus felt that maybe it would be best to simply perform the basic services that we currently provide.
 - G. Sanchez agreed with Simkus and felt that we should continue to try and cut expenses and tax less.
 - H. Dinneen asked if they wanted to increase the frequency of the sidewalk cleaning services. The commission agreed that we should wait until next meeting to discuss it.
 - I. Quartana asked if we could sell the Big Belly Solar Trash Compactors. Dinneen could not comment on whether or not that was an option.
 - J. The commission agreed that there was sufficient dollars in 2011 Sidewalk Cleaning to provide a level of service they were comfortable providing.
 - K. Patel asked why the snow removal budget increased \$5000. Dinneen explained that the previous year's budget was too thin and did not allow us much room for a severe winter.
 - L. Dinneen explained that he increased the holiday decorations budget to reflect the actual cost of the contract.

- M. Patel asked if we should raise loss collection. Dinneen explained that this loss collection mirrored last year's estimate and he did not feel that the economy was going to get worse than the previous year.
- N. Patel said that he was not comfortable paying \$40,000 to the Chamber in management and operational fees for running the SSA.
- O. Quartana agreed. Patel asked the Chamber to come back with a revised fee for service. He continued to say that since we are asking all of our vendors to cut costs he felt that the Chamber should be asked to do the same.
- P. Dinneen told the commission that he would go back and express the wishes of the commission to the Chamber.
- Q. Patel asked if Dinneen would look into the possibility of renting the Big Belly units. Dinneen agreed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. by Patel.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Loren Dinneen.