



Southeast Side
COMMUNITY
Business District
Special Service Area 5

SSA 5 Regular Commission Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2023

PRESENT

Laura Shallow
Bonnie Dinell-Diamond
Laurentino Ramirez
Angela Hurlock
Dorothy Hudson
Alex Alemis

ABSENT

SERVICE PROVIDER

Tom Schell, Executive Director
Crystal Vance-Guerra, SSA 5 Program Manager

GUESTS

Diane Dalton, Peoples Bank
Vanessa Bly, Invest South-West
Liliana Busto, 10th Ward Office
Jessica Smith, Plates on Purpose
Grace Morin, 10th Ward Resident
Captain Kevin Salmon, AGB Investigative Services

Angela Hurlock welcomed our guests. At this time, our guests, commissioners and services provider staff introduced themselves.

At this time, a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

There being no corrections or additions to the agenda, a motion to approve the agenda was made by Laura Shallow, seconded by Laurentino Ramirez. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Liliana Busto, from the 10th Ward Office announced that the 10 ward Easter egg hunt will take place on April 1, 2023 behind the Calumet Park field house at 11:00 a.m. Additionally, Ms. Busto announced that the office will be holding a property workshop on April 6, 2023 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the offices of the Invert.

At this time Alex Alemis joined the meeting and introduced himself

Crystal Vance-Guerra announced that on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m., the first Thrift and Thrive event will be held at the Salud Center. This event will include vendors, workshops and entertainment. This event is open to the community.

Vanessa Bly announced that on April 8, 2023 from 11:00 to 1:00 p.m., Bessemer Park will be hosting an Easter eggs hunt for community members.

Laurentino Ramirez announced plans for a clothing drive that will take place on May 4, 2023. Mr. Ramirez stated that Salud Center was one of the drop off sites and gently used clothes can be dropped off through April 1, 2023. Angela Hurlock briefly spoke about an upcoming job fair the will take place on May 4, 2023 at the Salud Center.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the February 23, 2023 were reviewed. There being no corrections nor additions to the minutes, a motion to approve the February 23, 2023 meeting minutes as presented was made by Dorothy Hudson, seconded by Laurentino Ramirez . Motion carried.

3. Financial Report

Financial Reports for the month ending February 28, 2023, were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Schell reviewed the financial position statement as well as the revenues and expenses for the month of February. After further discussion regarding the Financial Reports, a motion to approve the February 28, 2023 Financial Reports was made by Laura Shallow, seconded by Bonnie Dinell-Diamond. Motion carried.

4. Cash Flow / Receivables

Tom Schell provided the commissioners with a copy of the February bank reconciliation. A brief discussion occurred regarding the outstanding checks and the monthly deposits.

After further discussion and explanation, a motion to accept the February bank reconciliation was made by Dorothy Hudson, seconded by Laurentino Ramirez. Motion carried.

5. Items for Approval

Tom Schell presented the February and March invoices for payment approval. After further discussion regarding the invoices, a motion to approve the February and March invoices for payment was made Bonnie Dinell-Diamond, seconded by Dorothy Hudson. Motion carried.

6. Program Report

Captain Kevin Salmon presented security reports for the months of November, December, January and February. Captain Kevin Salmon stated that unfortunately they are not able to identify individual phone calls in these reports. After the presentation, Captain Salmon entertained questions from the commissioners and service provider staff regarding each of the reports. Captain Salmon stated that a monthly report will be emailed to Mr. Schell monthly to be reviewed at the monthly regular public meeting. At this time, a discussion regarding daily security services and community beat meetings occurred. Additionally, Captain Salmon provided his phone number in the event commissioners wanted to reach him directly.

Crystal Vance-Guerra reported on the Thrift and Thrive that was held at the Salud Center. This event celebrated Black History month. Ms. Vance-Guerra stated the event was very successful for all who participated.

Crystal Vance-Guerra provided a report on the Spend Some Get Some promotion which occurred during the holiday season. Ms. Vance-Guerra stated that the promotion was successful. A total of \$43,850.35 was spent in 40 stores from November 18 to December 31, 2022. A total of 52 participants and 153 gift cards were distributed. Further discussion occurred regarding ideas of how we can promote this event next year and if we could expand this promotion to other holidays.

Crystal Vance-Guerra reported that the business meeting have been occurring. There were two meeting in February and two in March. Ms. Vance –Guerra has been helping the businesses complete grant applications for the NOF and other city grants to help uplift the business on Commercial Avenue.

Vanessa Bly presented a report identifying Commercial Avenue corridor storefronts and lots. This document was funded outside the Special Service Area budget. Ms. Bly present an over view of the report and answered question regarding the contents of the report. A discussion occurred regarding the city owned vacant lots.

Mr. Schell stated that this report will be utilized for future economic development planning.

Crystal Vance-Guerra provided a brief update on the Commercial Avenue streetscape project that will start this summer.

Adjournment

There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. was made by Laura Shallow, seconded by Dorothy Hudson. Motion carried.

Next Scheduled Meeting – April 27, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.