

STATE STREET COMMISSION

State Street Commission Meeting

Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

2:00 PM

Via Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Mark Anderson
Commissioner Greg Cameron
Commissioner Kristin Duncan
Commissioner Dean Lane
Commissioner John Idler
Commissioner Mark Kelly
Commissioner La Verne Morris
Commissioner Ryan Segal
Commissioner Andrea Schwartz

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Gia Biagi
Commissioner Maurice Cox
Commissioner John Tully
Commissioner Eric Finnegan

Others Present

Katherine Branch
Michael Edwards
Robert Kearney
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
A.J. Capitanini
James Turner

AFFILIATION

Hines
Joffrey Ballet
Renaissance Hotel
Palmer House Hilton
ABC7
DCASE
20 North State Street Condos
Acadia
Macy's

CDOT
Department of Planning & Development
Department of Streets & Sanitation
CIM Group

CTA
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)
Alderman Reilly
Department of Planning & Development
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)
Chicago Loop Alliance (CLA)
CIBC

I. Call to Order

The June 15, 2021 meeting of the State Street SSA Commission was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chair Greg Cameron. Greg thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and stated with the re-opening of the City post pandemic, it is good to be back in the Loop.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to accept the Tuesday, April 20, 2021 meeting minutes as presented was made by Commissioner La Verne Morris and is seconded by Commissioner Angela Schwartz. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Statements as of May 31, 2021

Abel Rodriguez reviewed the financial statements through May 31, 2021 or 42% of the year. The report included the 2021 budget compared to the actual revenues and expenses. Abel was pleased with the collection of the SSA levy totaling 56% for the year to date and with total revenue at 66% of budget. He noted the late collection was lower than expected, helping to push up our revenue number.

Total expenses through May stand at just 24% of budget. This is largely due to timing issues associated with the major infrastructure work usually completed in the fall. That said, Michael Edwards reported an estimate of \$300,000 in order to completely replace 398 concrete tiles up and down State Street. While an extraordinary figure, Edwards reminded the Commission that we did not replace sidewalk aggregate in 2020 due to the pandemic and uncertainty of the SSA levy.

Edwards reported he moved ahead with Hard Surface (Vendor) to replace half of the concrete tiles, both red aggregate and tan, along with some minor caulking and drainage repair. The total cost is \$149, 500, but it will be necessary to fund another \$150,000 to finish other half of the project in the 2022 budget. The Joffrey Tower sidewalk will also be replaced this September as part of the Joffrey Tower sidewalk vault project. Commissioner Chair, Greg Cameron talked about his recent walks on State Street and that the aggregate seems good, the street is coming back to life.

A motion was made by Commissioner Idler and seconded by Commissioner Segal to accept the State Street Commission financial report as presented and discussed. Motion carried.

V. Security

Michael Edwards reported that security in the Loop has been problematic since the George Floyd verdict. Since then, CLA has had HLSA under weekly contract to hire 4 security guards, unarmed to provide business checks (store and restaurant closings, employee safety) and ongoing surveillance over night from 8-10 PM to 4-6 AM.

Edwards indicated Saturday June 5, 2021 was a particularly bad overnight with gunfire, carjackings, smashed windows, and intimidation of patrons. This was occurring on State Street, but also adjacent streets including Wabash and Michigan Avenue. A group of 150 young people, trespassed out of Millennium Park at 9:00 PM pour into the Loop and fight amongst themselves,

intimidate Loop customers (walking, at outdoor café's) and occasionally harm people and property. That particular evening, there was a distinct lack of police presence which could have improved the situation. Edwards has met with the city about this issue along with our HLSA team and Samir Mayekar. One suggestion was to be closer in touch with Sheamus Mannion, 1st Lieutenant of District 1. Edwards then discussed how the Street Team can be more helpful with better information to give to the overnight patrols, assisting employees with departure times, and trying to improve the use of Chicago's police presence downtown. We will try to be more understanding of the data collected, and how we can use the data to influence our decisions positively.

Edwards then continues expressing how the state of security is clearly related to perpetrators believing there will be no consequences to their actions, particularly with the use of guns. Michael believes we must put more steps in place in order to give young people programs, keeping them off the street and giving them the opportunity to understand why what they are doing is wrong. Angela Schwartz also discussed the attempted break-in a Macy's jewelry window, and a resulting \$20,000 repair which happened at 1:30 AM the past Saturday (June 5th). Gunshots went off around the same time. She went on to explain how she is not sure what else we can do without more support from the city. Edwards agreed, expressing how the problem is beyond our ability to fix, with the city needing to be the ones to make a change. He supplants this by expressing how the only thing we as an organization can do is fulfill our responsibility to demand this change from them. John Idler asks to pivot resources or revisions to budgets that will come in order to curb the issues in safety on State Street. Ryan Segal asks if security personnel are successful in reaching out to the police on concerns to issues, which Michael reassures with information regarding how the unarmed security interact with the police to assist them.

Michael Edwards is asked what Alderman wishes to do about it. Edwards stated that it seemed as if the Alderman wanted to clean his hands of the issue. The Alderman seemed to be frustrated with his police officers and department, but Robert Kearney alleviated doubt with reassurances that the Alderman is engaging in meetings with Commanders from the 1st and 18th Districts, as well as participating in dialogue with the police towards making a change. Michael Edwards apologized for the comment about Alderman Reilly's level of engagement and agreed with Robert Kearny that Alderman Reilly continues to work on the issue.

Commissioner Kelly indicated Millennium Park has pushed back their curfew from 10:00 PM to 9:00 PM, as they have bag checks and a difficult challenge. Commissioner Andrea Schwartz stated CLA must continue to work with Loop businesses and SSA stakeholder that all have a role to play in addressing this security challenge.

VI. Sundays on State

Michael Edwards gave an update on the state of planning for Sundays on State which will kick off on July 11, 2021. There will be a total of eight (8) Sundays on State Street which will be closed to vehicles from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm from Lake to Madison. The cross lanes of Randolph

and Madison will be traffic controlled. 160 groups having submitted applications as vendors, performers, etc.. A special use permit, restaurant expansion permit and a sidewalk permit are being put in place. There has been a significant amount of media coverage and we have had some initial success in raising the \$150,000 from corporate sponsors. Commissioner Schwartz indicated Macy's would like to be a \$25,000 sponsor of Sundays on State!

VII. DCASE

Commissioner Kelly discussed the cultural programming for the Millennium Park and Cultural Center. More specifically, he spoke on the ambition of the project, with 10 Monday and Thursday concerts being the highlighted events, although there will be no specific festival settings. Partner events that have been predetermined were mentioned as well. There will be 40-50 events after July 2nd.

VIII. CTA

Katherine Branch spoke on ridership numbers, which are at an increase to 500,000 riders from their previous total of 230,000 during the pandemic. The CTA is still attempting to understand the data they have gathered based on these riders. They are also trying to put emphasis on how to improve the current issues with Chicago's public transportation, especially their ability to ensure employee and rider safety.

IX. 2022 SSA Proposed Budget

Abel Rodriguez presents the budget for 2022 which shows 2019 and 2020 actuals, where we think we will end 2021, and highlighted the proposed 2022 budget in green. Abel indicated the draft budget was created with the input of CLA Board members, SSA Commissioners, the CLA finance committee and staff.

Michael Edwards reviewed the expense lines, noting the emphasis on enhancing clean, safe and health services by implementing a full year of our clean & safe program going from 10 to 18 employees including full time manager as well as a homeless outreach professional; increasing funding to assist our State Street retailers with more funds for Christmas decorations as well as incentives to fill vacant store fronts and the adding back in or two unfulfilled positions in the current budget including the Associate Director position along with our Community Engagement position.

The required revenue would total \$3,581,749, which results in a \$3,192,025 SSA levy or a 10.38% levy increase. There was good discussion around the budget with agreement that the emphasis on safety and retail enhancement is the correct course of action. There was also a concern with a 10% increase and as a result, our staff was directed to present the budget to the CLA Board on July 13th with an eye on reducing the proposed increase for the SSA Commissioners final review and approval on July 20, 2021.

X. Other Business

The budget will be voted towards on July 20, 2021.

XI. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LaVerne Morris,
SSA Secretary