

**GREEKTOWN SSA#16
OCTOBER 26, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Attending

Frank J. Caputo ("FC")
Tom Bonanno ("TB")
Lorraine Rieff Liakouras ("LR")
Anastasia Makridakis ("AM")
Ceasar Melidis ("CM")
Eve Moran ("EM")
Alex Theoharis ("AT")

Others Attending

Rod Burch ("RB"), Exec. Director WCA
Dean T. Maragos ("DTM"), Advisor
Mark Carroll, M19 Land Investments
Leo Louchios, Greektown Ed. Found.
Mike Kritzman, Lakota Group
Marisa Schulz, Lakota Group
Peter Vitogiannis, Mr. Greek Gyros
Madelaine Kukanza, Zapwater
Sally Carpenter, Zapwater
Chuck Vitogiannis, Mr. Greek Gyros

Commissioners Absent

Tom Paspalas
Marc Washor

I. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes – The September 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes were accepted with one amendment. There was a motion by TB and seconded by FC to accept the meeting minutes with the change. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

- A. Strategic Plan RFP – Lakota Group** – Mike Kritzman (MK) and Marisa Schulz (MS) addressed the SSA concerning Lakota's winning proposal to guide the SSA to a master plan. MK stated that the project will take six to nine months and they will start November 17th. MK stated there initially will be meetings with the community and they will do a sidewalk and site plan. From November 1st to December 31st they will start with their meetings with the local businesses and residents and after January 1, 2018 they will continue to roll out their investigation and preparation for their report to the SSA.

They stated they will need a "Steering Committee" of the community leaders to discuss their proposals concerning implementation of their plan and then they will be meeting with Alderman Burnett and City officials.

FC stated he would like letters of references from their company's clients and how they are going to handle parking issues in Greektown. DTM asked for their zoning expert who they informed us was Kirk Bishop of Duncan Associates and Mr. Bishop will be calling DTM. FC asked if they are going to be seeking the Alderman's input and MK stated they will be implementing the Alderman's policy into their report. FC also stated that MK should consider WCA members

for the Steering Committee and they agreed. FC said that Lakota will also work with Zapwater who is establishing the marketing program.

- B. Proposal Lighting – Columns** – FC reported that three columns will be lit. Motion by TB and seconded by EM to pay \$22,020 for the lighting subject to DTM's review of the contract with Twin Electric Company.
- C. Taste of Greektown Video** – The video was shown.

IV. New Business

- A. Holiday Decorations Proposal** – There was a motion made by FC and seconded by LR to expend \$19,680.00 for the Christmas decorations with Twin Electric. The motion passed unanimously. There will be a Christmas event with the children on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.
- B. CTA Station – Greektown Station Signage** – FC reported that the Greektown sign is making progress for the Halsted El Stop.
- C. Chicago Greektown Educational Foundation Proposal** – The proposal was discussed.
- D. Kouzina (NHM) - Advertisement** – FC spoke on this matter.

V. Open Session

- A. Greektown - Shooting Incident** – DTM explained to the Commission and the public at this meeting that the Greektown SSA has been working diligently to resolve the security problems in Greektown since 2014. He presented SSA meeting minutes from September 2014 until December 2016 indicating the lengthy meetings that the SSA had with the local merchants and the Chicago Police in Greektown on Jackson and Halsted and Van Buren and Monroe where there were incidents of criminal activity reported by the police and the local residents.

At the end of the two year meetings with the community, no resolution was resolved concerning the individual owners paying for outside security and some of them said they had security forces inside their establishments only. As a result, the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs held a hearing in City Hall concerning the Greektown crime problem in which the owners presented themselves with their attorneys. The meeting was presided upon by Ms. Barbara Gressel of the Dept. of Business Affairs Prosecution Division. At the meeting in which DTM attended, the business owners through their attorneys offered to the City to close their restaurants totally from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. commencing in January, 2016. The City of Chicago accepted that offer with the proviso that if there was criminal activity in the period from January 1, 2016 to July 1, 2016 that further measures to prevent any future criminal activity would be needed. The owners agreed.

On July 1, 2016 there were no reported incidents of shootings in the Greektown area and the City therefore did not prosecute any of the owners of the restaurants on Jackson Street and Halsted Street concerning any disciplinary action because the owners had abided by their agreement to shut down their operation totally from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. The term "closing" meant that there are no patrons inside the establishment and no business activity in the establishment as of 4 a.m. each day. The agreement was for the owners to completely shut down

their businesses from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. Monday through Sunday, seven days a week.

On October 21, 2017 there was a shooting inside the Taco Burrito King at 811 W. Jackson which was one of the establishments that the owner promised the City that it would close its operations from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. The incident occurred at 4:21 a.m. when Taco Burrito, in violation of its agreement with the City was open. DTM stated to the commission and the public that he called the Alderman and the City of Chicago Department of Business Affairs. He recommended that since the owners of Taco Burrito, who had previously given their word that they would close their operations from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. that the community would want to pursue a review of the facts in the case and advocate to the City of Chicago that their licenses be revoked and the procedures for revocation be immediately instituted. There was also a report in the Chicago Tribune newspaper that the perpetrators or the victims had purchased Greek gyros sandwiches that evening. The Greektown SSA and the West Central Association (WCA) have asked the police to inform the SSA and the WCA if there was a gyros establishment open after 4 a.m. that evening in violation of the agreement previously made in January, 2016 between the owners of the establishments and the City. DTM concluded his statements by stating that safety is the number one priority for the SSA #16 & the WCA and the SSA will do everything in its power to insure safety in the area. DTM, FC and RB will meet with the Commander of the 12th District as soon as possible to listen to what the police are doing and inform the police of our requests to make the area safer.

There was a statement made that there is a Crime Prevention Center camera group in the City called "CPAC Office" on 31st Street and that it would be to our benefit to discuss possible cameras that are already in place with them. Mr. Peter Vitogiannis stated that his workers have seen that the Yum Yum food store and Taco Burrito are open until 5:30 a.m. and that affidavits would be signed by them.

- B. Greektown Art Committee Update** – EM reported that the big Christmas boat will be sent to the artist and will be ready in two weeks. The small Christmas boats will take ten days to mold and then four days for the artists to decorate them. Orders have been received from the Greek Islands Restaurant, Athenian Candle Shop, Santorini, Artopolis Restaurant, LR has ordered three boats and Walgreens has ordered two. Cliff Dwellers offered to store the dinghys at their location on Michigan Avenue. Leo Louchios suggested they be stored in the Byzantium Restaurant. There will ultimately be an auction held in which the purchasers of the dinghys will donate directly to non-profit organizations and EM will report at the next meeting when that auction will be.
- C. Zapwater PR/Social Media Update** – Madelaine Kukanza gave a report that Irene Koumis was on NBC TV at the Chicago Marathon. Ariel Cheung of DNAinfo will also be speaking more often with Zapwater to continue the PR program for the area. The Trolley Program will be one of their priorities and the Christmas Lighting Ceremony will also be a priority.

DTM asked if the planning for the 2018 Chicago Marathon will include much more decorations, water and signs for the public relations and Madelaine said they would be definitely be starting on that in Spring 2018.

Madelaine also reported they are working on social media programs, the Trolley program for the Bulls' games. They are going to have an "Influencers" Event with the Greektown trolley at the Bulls' game in mid-November 2017. They also got a gift basket from Bentley's which is a local merchant and will work with other restaurants on raffles.

Leo Louchios suggested that the Christmas lighting and children be part of the PR program and they agreed.

- D. Financial Update** – RB stated that he has the 2017 amended budget and the 2018 budget and there will be a final vote at City Council in November 2017 on these matters.

VI. Community Participation – A discussion was had on security matters.

VII. Adjournment - At 5:00 p.m. there was a motion made for adjournment by FC, and seconded by AT. The motion passed unanimously.