

**GREEKTOWN SSA#16
NOVEMBER 15, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Attending

Frank J. Caputo, ("FC")
Anastasia Makridakis, ("AM")
Eve Moran, ("EM")
Tom Paspalas, ("TP")
Alex Theoharis, ("AT")

Commissioners Absent

Tom Bonanno
Lorraine Rieff Liakouras
Ceasar Melidis
Marc Washor

Others Attending

Rod Burch, ("RB"), Exec. Director WCA
Dean T. Maragos, ("DTM"), Advisor
Susan Downs, ("SD")
Peter Vitogiannis Cpt. Kevin Salmon
Pauline Dengler Stephanie Reay
David Coleman Tito Valdez
Kearby Kaiser Russ McDonald
Dan Ware Sherelle Withers
Felicia Lawrence Theodore Gilmore
Leo Louchios Syed Ahmed
Molly Mara

I. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. There was a quorum present.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes – The October 25, 2018 Meeting Minutes were reviewed. There was a motion by TP and seconded by FC to accept the October 25, 2018 meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

III. New Business

A. AGB Contract Extension – Captain Kevin Salmon reported that the current night schedule is a good one. He suggests that in December and January we focus on Jackson problems requiring additional costs to AGB for manpower since there have been substantial problems within the area of 800 W. Jackson. He also said that Walgreens has been cooperating. He is getting the direct phone numbers for his people to the Walgreens staff.

Capt. Salmon stated that due to the extreme difficulties in the Jackson Street area near Drinkhaus and Taco Burrito King there has been a traffic control problem and it is very difficult because it is blocking all lanes. The Chicago Police Department wants traffic congestion from Friday to Saturday 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. handled by them and AGB. All the information is in the Daily Incident Report submitted by AGB to the Board. At the northwest corner outside of Drinkhaus there have been many people drinking open bottles of liquor. There was a motion by FC and seconded by TP to keep all AGB current schedules the same until January 31, 2019 and keep the current hours and extend the contract to January 31, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Drinkhaus – Community Impact – DTM stated that he is waiting for reports, and then based upon the facts will advise the Board.

C. Mythical Smokes – 235 S. Halsted St. – Kearby Kaiser (KK) who is a leasing agent reported that a vape house called Mythical Smokes which has other locations in the city, has signed a lease and obtained a City of Chicago license

for a vape shop. FC stated the community is totally against the vape shop. There were problems in the area for a long time prior to the vape shop located at that location at the Jackson hotel. There were liquor problems and serious drug problems with previous establishments. FC stated that no one came to the SSA to discuss the vape matter. KK said that there is already a tobacco shop in the area on Halsted Street and this is similar to that shop. TP said we do not need another vape shop in Greektown. Instead, we would need a grocery or meat shop or other type of vendor. KK stated you must be 21 to go into the Mythical Smokes shop and there will be strict id checks for underage individuals. The average demographic is 23 to 24 years of age. FC stated Greektown needs family oriented businesses and the vape shop does not have the same clientele as a tobacco shop. KK was asked if the lease states "no marijuana" and he said he will have to report back since that would cause a possible conflict of business for the vape shop. The hours at the 235 S. Halsted Street shop will be 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. There was a motion made by FC and seconded by TP stating "The SSA strongly does not approve of a vape shop located at 235 South Halsted due to the current community conditions and will notify Alderman Burnett of its opposition. Further, the area has had severe problems at the Drinkhaus and the Taco Burrito area at 820 W. Jackson and the vape shop is only one block away". The motion to oppose the opening of the vape shop since it is a detriment to the community and the owners never sought SSA approval passed unanimously.

- D. Shoppers Reward Program** – RB presented the Rewards Program rules and guidelines and it will last from November 1st to December 31st. There was a motion by FC and seconded by AT to accept the program. The motion passed unanimously. RB stated Zapwater will get the information to all the businesses.
- E. National Hellenic Museum – Christmas Party Sponsorship** – After discussion, there was a motion by EM and seconded by AM to give \$800 to the National Hellenic Museum for advertising. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Chicago Sculpture Exhibit 2019/2020** - There was a motion by EM and seconded by FC to approve the program for \$3,500 to place sculptures at the Monroe and Halsted Street location. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Old Business

- A. LYFT Update** – RB stated he called the SSA and WCA insurance company to cover the SSA for the LYFT activities. DTM stated that he wants RB to get the insurance agent's opinion that by buying the General Liability insurance that they are recommending that the SSA is covered for all liability from the LYFT activities. RB said he will contact the agent from Rummel and Associates and get the letter to DTM. There was a motion by FC and seconded by AT to buy the General Liability Insurance with the insurance agent's opinion to cover all possible liability for the SSA and WCA during the LYFT program and to approve the LYFT program to commence on December 1, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Reports & Updates

- A. Zapwater Communications** – The public relations were all geared towards the Thanksgiving destination and the Tree Lighting ceremony on December 8th.

2019 plans are being prepared and will be discussed at the December 13, 2018 meeting.

- B. Lakota Group – Community Open House Update** – RB reported there will be an Open House on December 5, 2018 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. to discuss the issues for the Lakota Report and will interact with the public it will highlight the first open house ideas and proposals.

- C. Chairman Update** – RB stated there was an article in Crain's Chicago on Greektown. He also said we were in the "Grid" in the Chicago Sun-Times and there were videos and interviews taken by their paper.

All the banners are on the poles and decorated with hanging baskets and foliage.

FC reported about the WCA 100 year celebration of its existence. He said a lot of people want good foot traffic in the area. The SSA is proud of its accomplishments in the Greektown growth and its material assistance to WCA over the last ten years.

- D. Program Manager Update** – RB stated that there is an Open House for the Loukas building on Van Buren and Halsted from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- E. Christmas Ceremony Update** – SD stated there is additional insured and all the signatures requested to protect the SSA for liability have been signed. Leo Louchios stated that the Greektown Educational Foundation will send teams and a Master of Ceremony to the event.

- F. 727 W. Madison "First Look" Event** – FC reported that 727 W. Madison will have a Fifield "First Look" of the design and trends of the building on November 29th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

VI. Adjournment – At 4:00 p.m. there was a motion made for adjournment by FC, and seconded by AM. The motion passed unanimously. The next SSA #16 Commissioner meeting is December 13, 2018.