

**GREEKTOWN SSA#16**  
**January 28, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

**Commissioners Virtually Attending**

Frank J. Caputo, (FC)  
Eve Moran, (EM)  
Justine Fedak, (JF)  
Anastasia Makridakis, (AM)  
George Reveliotis, (GR)  
Alex Theoharis, (AT)  
Maria Tsourapas, (MT)  
Marc Washor, (MW)

**Others Virtually Attending**

Rod Burch, (RB), Exec. Director WCA  
Dean T. Maragos, (DTM), Advisor  
Tia Angelos, (TA)  
Elizabeth Neukirch, (EN), Silverman Group

**Commissioners Absent**

Nicholas Kriarakis  
Tom Paspalas  
Lorraine Rieff Liakouras

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call** – The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Community Participation** – RB said there was no community participation at today's meeting.

**III. Review and Vote on Approval of December 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – There was a motion by FC, seconded by EM, to approve the December 10, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. New Business**

- A. Q4 Financial Review –RB stated the expenses and explained the schedules. There was a motion made by FC and seconded by AT to accept the 2020 Q4 SSA worksheet that RB used to explain the items. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. 2020 Budget Revisions – RB submitted City approved budget revisions:
- \$5,000.00 from line item 4.03 Supplemental Transit, to line item 6.04 Office Rent.
  - \$2,500.00 from line item 6.17 Liability/Property Insurance to line item 2.11 Public Way Insurance. This is because we need additional insurance for the artwork. There was a motion by EM and seconded by AM to accept the budget revisions that RB proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. Reports & Updates**

- A. Chairman Report – FC stated that he wanted a moment of silence for the passing of Bernie, our street maintenance manager. The moment of silence was observed. Bob will be the new street maintenance manager. FC spoke on Bernie's life and his work with the SSA. EM stated Bernie helped her on many projects including the Art Committee. EM also stated the merchants on Halsted should give a friendly salutation to Bob.

FC stated The Silverman Group did a great job on getting T.V., radio and print coverage for the SSA artwork.

FC welcomed the new commissioners to the SSA.

B. Arts Committee Update –

Fish Sculptures - EM gave praise to The Silverman Group for their outstanding job. Connie and EM are working on the sculpture project. The sculpture “Goldie Gives Gratitude” is on the fourth floor of Rush Hospital in a highly visible location that will be seen by many people. FC stated he supported the Goldie/Rush Hospital project.

DTM asked RB if the City attorney had opined on the “Goldie” transfer and RB said they had not. EM and RB will get opinion concerning the nature of the transfer or possibly as a loan.

Karavakia - EM spoke about the Karavakia status. EM stated that all the Karavakia originally would be picked up on January 6<sup>th</sup> but because people were so enthused by having them they wanted to keep them for an additional couple of weeks. The last day will be Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to hold them and they will then be picked up.

Artist In Residence Program - The designer of the Artist in Residence (AIR) Program will be moving forward. EM spoke with a professor who will contact the Dean of the Design Department at UIC and discuss the program.

Greektown Christmas Lights - EM wanted Christmas lights to remain as part of the artistic scenario in Greektown. EM proposed a longer stay next year and company notice of the removal dates.

Mural Project of 222 S. Halsted – EM and DTM met with Carmen Rossi (CR). CR informed them that the landlord had approved the mural. EM is contacting the mural artist for cost estimates and samples. There is no date set yet for the opening of The Herbal Care Center Cannabis Dispensary. We will call CR on the date to install the mural and get the size of the mural for our preparation.

EM spoke on the Public Relations Program for the SSA business promotions. EM stated she was interviewed about the building of Greektown by the radio station WVON.

C. PR Firm Updates - Elizabeth Neukirch (EN) of The Silverman Group stated she is excited to bring Greektown more Public Relations. EN she thanked TA and spoke on the newsletter. EN said Silverman Group is going to conduct an audit of the Greektown social media. Media Relations was excellent for the Fish Sculptures. Silverman will be meeting with network executives at NBC, ABC, WGN & FOX to have EM to speak.

200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Greek Revolution – The 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821 will be celebrated this year. EM and TA spoke of a virtual promotion. EM wanted to light up Greektown in March and have small signs for all the merchants on Halsted Street commemorating the Greek Independence Day. DTM suggested that we put Greek flags on the temples in commemoration of Greek Independence Day. EN stated in addition to the flags that we should get Greek dance troupes and that would be a big media event. EN also suggested we have a Greek band at the Elysian Fields.

"2 Chicago" wants Greek events. Second Shopper Reward Program to be coordinated to help the local merchants.

EM stated there was a Zoom video with the Greek Consulate on the Holocaust.

FC stated that we should speak to Michael Amiridis who is the Chancellor at University of Illinois Chicago.

GR stated he would contact ENOSIS concerning the Greek Independence Day events.

D. Program Manager/Sole Service Provider Report -

TA thanked EN for the Newsletter and the Web assistance.

- a. Covid Rebates Update – Covid Rebates were given to 12 merchants. There were 12 health rebates and 8 marketing rebates. The merchants were very thankful for the money and the marketing help. AM said the Covid Rebates were very successful and she believes the rebates should be extended. There was a motion made by AM and seconded by FC to extend the Covid Rebates in the 2021 Budget. RB stated there is no problem with the line item to accomplish that. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Shopper Rewards Update – There were over 250 people that worked with 17 merchants. Many are asking for Valentine's Day promotions for Restaurant Week. FC asked RB if the WCA Newsletter could give information on the Shopper Rewards program. RB stated yes, the West Central Association weekly newsletter does promote Greektown.
- c. Virtual Wine Event – There were 21 individuals involved with the Virtual Wine Event with Artos, which provided a cheese platter with wine and bread. The event was so successful that 12 of the participants want another event.
- d. Loading Zones - TA sent information on the loading zone restrictions to the merchants since many of the merchants and their patrons are getting ticketed. RB stated the loading zones will be converted to standing zones. EM said we should try to obtain a document that states that the merchants "Applied for Standing Zone Applications" in order to possibly stop the tickets. MT stated she applied for the Standing Zone on South Halsted and she received it relatively quickly with assistance from the Alderman and that his assistant Reggie helped immensely. MT also said there are rumors that there will be additional parking meters in Greektown. MT said she would help other stores on the application process if they request it.

**VII. Adjournment – Next SSA #16 Commission Meeting is February 25, 2021** - At 4:10 p.m. there was a motion by FC, seconded by AM, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The next SSA #16 Commission Meeting is February 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.