

STATE STREET COMMISSION
State Street Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 18, 2022
2:00 PM
Via Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

AFFILIATION

Commission Members Present

Commissioner Greg Cameron
Commissioner Kristin Duncan
Commissioner John Idler
Commissioner La Verne Morris
Commissioner Ryan Segal
Commissioner Andrea Schwartz
Sam Alexander
Cynthia Roubik
Luis Zepeda

Joffrey Ballet
Renaissance Hotel
ABC7
20 North State Street Condos
Acadia
Macy's
CDOT
Department of Planning & Development
Department of Streets & Sanitation

Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Mark Anderson
Commissioner Dean Lane

Hines
Palmer House Hilton

Others Present

Michael Edwards
Mark Roschen
Abel Rodriguez
Patricia Zuber

Chicago Loop Alliance
Department of Planning & Development
Chicago Loop Alliance
CPD First District Commander

I. Call to Order

The January 18th meeting of the State Street SSA Commission was called to order at 2:02 PM by Chair Greg Cameron. Greg stated we had a very heavy agenda.

II. Public Comment

No comments were made by the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

Later in the meeting, La Verne Morris stated there were some edits to the minutes the Commission received prior to the meeting, however, these edits were not substantive. A motion to accept the Tuesday, November 16, 2021 minutes as discussed was made by Ryan Segal and seconded by Kristen Duncan. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Safety Update

Greg Cameron introduced First District Commander Zuber who updated the Commission on reports of criminal activity last week on the red line CTA train. Commander Zuber stated there were seven incidents on the red line between January 13th and 17th of which four occurred at the Jackson Street stop. The CPD is concentrating their efforts at this location with 24-7 police presence on the platform, tunnel and stairs and additionally, will assign officers to the blue line Jackson stop as necessary (the site of the other incidents). CPD is working closely with the CTA police forces to improve coordination and communication. There was one arrest likely associated with the recent incidents and the parties involved are young (13-14 years old). The incidents do not seem to be connected and CPD will keep forces in place until February 1st at which time CPD will reassess the situation and deployment schedule.

There was a burglary in Block 37 over the weekend and the Commander stated CPD will forward information to CLA on preventing motor vehicle theft. Commander Zuber finished with information on the possible increase in parades coming to State Street. Michael Edwards asked if she was referring to the idea of moving the St. Patrick's Day Parade from Columbus to State Street. There was good discussion around the value of the St. Patrick's Day parade, impact on State Street businesses, number of people, and cost for city equipment to keep State Street safe. Commander Zuber stated the CPD was not in favor of the idea due to the likely size of the crowd. Kristen Duncan stated Wacker and State is very busy already from the dyeing of the river. John Idler said ABC7 broadcasts the parade and felt a State Street location would enhance the parade presentation and while he is not advocating for the move, he would be in favor. Greg Cameron felt the Local 130 Plumbers Union (parade managers) could provide the necessary bathrooms and other requirements necessary to have a safe and positive parade on State Street. Greg expressed some frustration on the process of deciding which parades do or don't happen on State Street.

Andrea thanked Michael Edwards for beginning to put together a CLA security committee. Edwards explained the security committee is a big idea in the adopted CLA 2022 business plan. He has 10 or so interested people so far from theatre, retail, hotel, education, public safety and private security. Commander Zuber stated she or a First District representative will be happy to join the committee. The committee will meet monthly, at least initially to monitor issues, advocate for city attention and resources and manage and deploy our own Safety Ambassadors and private security firm to address issues before they become a problem. During the meeting John Idler expressed an interest in participating on the committee.

IV. Financial Statements as of December 31, 2021

Financial Statements and Budget Reallocation

Abel Rodriquez screen shared and reviewed the financial statements through December 31, 2021 that were sent out to the Commission before the meeting. Abel stated we are finishing the year in good financial shape on the revenue side with almost 100% of the SSA levy collected. Abel noted we budgeted to end the year with \$340,000 in year end reserve but ended the year with \$539,000 reserves before expenses. We have been very conservative in spending SSA dollars given the unknown associated with the receipt of the levy, so we have a series of budget

reallocations better reflective of how we spent funds in 2021, for example Sundays on State and the new holiday lights. This reallocation is within the policies set by DPD. Abel indicated at year end, unaudited, we are expecting to finish the year with almost \$682,000 fund balance. The Commission will recall we had anticipated bringing \$350,000 forward into 2022. Thus, after reallocation we have about \$341,000 in unbudgeted reserves we will need to allocate at our next meeting. According to Edwards, the increase fund balance is largely because we stopped the application of the COVID disinfectant and the delay in expanding our Safety Ambassador program. After further discussion, a motion was made by John Idler (changing the date from May 31st to December 31st) and seconded by Andrea Schwartz to approve the budget reallocations and year-end projected financial report as presented. Motion carried.

Fourth Quarter and Annual Performance Metrics

Abel Rodriguez reviewed the 4th quarter sole service provider performance metrics which includes our goals, vendors spend, and performance indicators such as unique views to our website. Abel then showed the *annual* performance metrics, that showed a slight reallocation per the budget. After some discussion a motion was made by John Idler and seconded by Kristen Duncan to approve the 4th quarter and annual 2021 metrics as discussed. Motion carried.

Contractor Affidavit

Abel Rodriguez presented the DPD Contractor Affidavit which states the CLA provided the services in 2021 that they said they would to the benefit of the SSA Commission and continued success of State Street. A motion was made by La Verne Morris and Ryan Segal to approve the contractor affidavit as presented and discussed. Motion carried.

V. Sole Service Provider Report

Edwards thanked Greg for the introduction. Edwards referenced the documents he sent last week with the meeting reminder and encouraged the Commissioners to take some time to read through them in some detail.

Edwards highlighted a few items from the recently adopted **CLA Business Plan**. Abel Rodriguez screen shared the document. Edwards explained to the Commission the CLA and Foundation budgets are developed around the SSA budget which is adopted in July of each year for the following year. As such, the 2022 business plan including the SSA, CLA and Foundation is a \$4.6 million effort of which 70% is focused on State Street. A few 2022 action items of note include the creation of a security committee as discussed earlier, quarterly meetings with Commander Zuber, and the expansion of our Safety Ambassador program from 8 to 18 individuals that includes a recently hired Operations Manager and a Homeless Outreach professional. We will advocate for important State Street projects like the renovation of the CTA station at State and Lake and keeping the Christkindlmarket in the Loop. We hope to begin the Elevate State planning process in the second quarter and will continue our \$100,000 effort in placemaking around Sundays on State and even an alley activation. CLA intends to expand membership, will continue to deliver great marketing and communications and will incorporate our DEI Strategy into the delivery of many

of our action items throughout the year. Andreas Schwartz thanked Edwards and the CLA Board for their thoughtful construction of the 2022 plan and budget.

Edwards referenced a letter he sent to CDOT and our Aldermen regarding concerns about the need for docking **scooters** when they roll-out across the city and in the Loop this coming March.

Edwards requested the SSA Commission approval to add 2-4 additional Safety Ambassadors to our **program to service the City of Chicago** request for rush hour presence on two east-west streets between the Metra Stations and State Street. This would be a temporary deployment for 3-6 months and assist in increasing worker confidence as they begin to come back to the office. There was good discussion about the need, alternative deployment of CPD, the value of this effort, the specific street locations and more. The Commander said the city had not requested CPD to deploy officers in this regard. Andrea Schwartz asked if the Magnificent Mile was being requested to do something similar. Edwards did not know but did inform the Commissioners that the Magnificent Mile was awarded a new \$750,000 SSA. Greg Cameron requested CLA do a better job of orienting our Safety Ambassadors to how they relate to the work of CLA and the SSA Commission. Greg has been disappointed in the past at their reaction to his on-street introductions; they do not seem to be well versed on their role in the greater effort to keep State Street clean, safe and friendly.

A motion was made by Andrea Schwartz and seconded by La Verne Morris to approve a contract with the City of Chicago for up to \$65,000 to provide weekday, rush hour patrols east and west on streets connecting the Metra Stations and State Street. Motion carried.

Finally, Edwards stated he has a more detailed **list of candidates** for the open private sector and the public sector openings on the SSA Commission to replace Eric Finnegan and Mark Kelly respectively. Edwards suggested the Commission might want to consider public officials more involved with the facilities along State Street such as the streetlights and electrical services. Edwards will forward the list to Ryan and Andrea and copy Greg for thoughts and direction.

Edwards encouraged the Commissioners to take some time to review the **January President's Report** that was included in the meeting reminder packet for updates on what is happening beyond State Street at the CLA.

VI. Status Reports

Department of Planning & Development

Cynthia Roubik, Deputy Commissioner, Central Area Planning, stated the DPD is working with the CLA and last week held their initial meeting with the ULI Technical Assistance Panel regarding the future of LaSalle Street. DPD is in the processes of securing a consultant to complete an economic study of the reuse on properties along the street. Mark Roschen explained BID legislation has been submitted to Springfield to become state enabling legislation this spring.

CDOT

Sam Alexander, representing Commissioner Biagi, stated the city continues to plan for the relocation of utilities as the necessary first step before the State & Lake CTA station renovation

project can begin. CDOT is working with property owners to develop utility plans now and does not expect to begin work until 2023. Sam also mentioned 4 construction projects that are underway at Adams, two locations at State and one at Van Buren, all involving ComEd and Enwave, amongst other utilities. This work is permitted now through February 17th.

Streets & Sanitation

Luis Zepeda, first Deputy Commissioner for Streets & Sanitation stated it is snow season and while December was uneventful, the city is ready for ice and snow. Luis stated any snow or ice concerns should be directed to him. Regarding the homeless, his department works closely with DFSS and Deb Delopez. Just let him or Deb know, and they will add any issue into their homeless management system from a single individual to an encampment.

VII. Other Business

Greg Cameron thanked everyone for attending the meeting today and he is looking forward to meeting again as Spring approaches and we hope to meet in person later in the year.

VIII. Adjournment

La Verne Morris, Secretary