

SSA Commission Meeting/ Special Service Area #60
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
5:30 p.m.
North River Commission Office
3403 W. Lawrence Ave Ste. 201
Chicago, IL 60625

SSA Commission Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

SSA Commissioners Present: Andrew Levin (chair), Angela Bowman (secretary), Mir Naghavi, Saima Causevic, Frank Kern, Stephanie Fishel, John Tunnell

North River Commission Staff Present: Thomas Applegate, (E.D.), Duka Dabovic (SSA manager)

Other Attendees: Tom Guagliardo (TRIP, Tano's Pizzeria), Erik Grossnickle (Bartlett Tree Experts), Carol Maher, Bob Manor (resident)

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Item: Old Business

a. Approval Minutes

John Tunnell moved to approve the November minutes. Mir Naghavi seconded. All others present voted in favor.

b. Approval of Financials

Stephanie moved to approve the financials. Frank seconded. All presented voted in favor.

c. Bartlett Tree, presentation of management plan

Showed executive summary: 598 trees in the SSA, almost \$1m worth

Recommend pruning 196 trees; 75 trees are priority 1 or priority 2; suggests doing them in a single sweep to maximize permits for a given location. Thinks he could do trees on Montrose to Central Park in 5 days; next 5 days wd be north to south on Kedzie; 5 days week would be Lawrence and Irving Park. If we wait a long time (3 years), Forestry dept might end up doing the trees on Irving Park on their own. (approx \$10,800 per week of pruning; we have already 2 weeks' worth approved for 2015)

Recommend removing 28; for 13, Bartlett has recommended to the city forestry department that they be removed. Highest-risk issues get passed on to the city in this way.

PRIORITIES:

- Pruning and soil management (soil management is ongoing)

- [Removal of highest-risk trees—let the city do this]
- Repopulate (approx \$1000 per tree; we can request this cost from the city. might pitch in some SSA money for private-public partnership)

Ash trees: Erik recommends soil-applied systemic pesticide (imidaclopride), which is less expensive than what John Friedmann did in Horner Park (Tree-age, aka emmamectin benzoate). Soil-applied systemic pesticide is \$6-10/tree. You use it every year. It works perfectly fine for smaller trees, which is what we have in the SSA (Horner Park trees were bigger). Tree-age is better for bigger trees—you only have to do it every two years, but you do have to wound the tree in order to apply it, which is hard on smaller trees.

Majority of our ash trees are in fair condition; he recommends treating them all as early as April. Better to try to save what you have just to save the canopy for now. Some are in need of removal.

We have 10 days budgeted for pruning; recommends allotting an extra 7 days (@\$2100/day). That would probably cover it.

Thomas says: should we consider doing some replanting now, perhaps at the expense of some pruning, just to fill in empty holes. Andrew says: I want to do both. We have \$80,000 to carry over next year, so let's do the pruning in Jan-Feb and then, in Jan, entertain a proposal for new trees.

Angela moves to allocate money for all of this planting in 2016. Frank seconds. All in present vote in favor.

Erik would like to help us write the RFP and develop the plan for planting. He doesn't plant trees himself but can help us get a good plan in place. And will make some recommendations about what kind of trees to plant. Will do the consultation as a part of his existing service contract with us—no extra cost.

Bob Manor suggests approaching Ald. Mell about dipping into her menu money to contribute to the cost of the new trees.

He also asks whether merchants bear any responsibility for care of trees. The answer, in short, is no, but Mir and Carol both suggest that in a future meeting we take up the question of educating merchants about at least watering and not destroying city trees.

d. Facade Projects

i. 4747 N. Sawyer is asking for additional funding. Commission discussed and agreed that we can't be going in and approving more money any time someone asks for it. Not a good precedent—opens us up to all and sundry ad-hoc second applications. Andrew makes the point that if they want to come back before the work starts, we might consider it.

Angela moves that we not approve additional funding requested for 4747 N. Sawyer. Stephanie seconds. All present vote in favor of motion.

ii. 2853 W. Montrose, asks approval for add'l scope: wants to add banners to the original scope. Work has not yet been done. However, she hasn't gotten bids for more than one vendor.

Stephanie argues that we would be violating our own procedure if we approve this request. Frank agrees. Andrew wants to make it easy for applicants—it's a good project and we don't want to present bureaucratic obstacles. However, the fact that she hasn't gotten sufficient bids means she's not submitting a correct application and we are just going to tell her to apply for next year. That application time opens up next week.

Angela moves that we can extend application deadline as long as there is money in the budget. Saima seconds. All present vote in favor.

e. Facade Program & 2016 Rollout

i. Recommendation to remove reapplication ineligibility period of 12 months following receipt of facade funds for a previous project.

Thomas suggests that we consider it a factor in considering new application but not an absolute measure of eligibility.

Frank moves to remove 12-month reapplication ineligibility clause. Previous receipt of funds can be a factor in considering new applications. Saima seconds. All present vote in favor of motion.

3. New Business

a. Patch Snow Removal.

Andrew: How did they do? Duka: they did OK. Not exemplary, but OK.
The jury is still out.

b. SSA Strategic Planning

Why don't we undertake a 5-year strategic plan?

Thomas: NRC is going to be undertaking community planning esp in the early months of next year. He will engage the SSA commission in that process.

Stephanie asks Duka: survey? Duka says it will go out the first week of January so we can have results back to discuss for planning at February meeting.

Adjournment: Andrew adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.