SSA Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2020

ATTENDEES
SSA Commissioners present: Saima Causevic, Mark Aistrope, Kareeshma Ali, Stephanie Fishel, David Maletin, Andrew Levin
Staff present: Alexa Schutz, Thomas Applegate
SSA Commissioners absent: Daniella Cornue
Guests: None

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm by Chair, Mark Aistrope.
Note: Pursuant to the applicable law and city determination that attendance by remote means is necessary because an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the declared public health disaster caused by COVID-19, this meeting is conducted by videoconference.

Approval of minutes: Motions to approve 1st Causevic, 2nd Maletin; all in favor with no abstentions

Financial Reports
Schutz reviewed the July and August P&Ls and balance sheets. The 2nd levy installment has mostly come in ahead of the pandemic related deadline extension this year which is October 1 and largely in mid to late August; DPD cautioned service providers that SSAs could see up to 30% of no levy collection for the 2nd installment this year due Covid. In February 2020, the Commissioners approved adjustments to the 2020 budget that anticipated an 8% shortfall in revenue and made adjustments in expenditures to adjust for that shortfall. With the 2nd installment mostly received at 90% and the February adjustments, SSA 60 is within 2% of its expected 2019 levy revenue. SSA60 is in a good position and revenue consistent with the projections used in the February analysis. The focus now is delivering services consistent with 2020 budget priorities and adjustments in response to impacts from the pandemic. Both Fishel and Causevic cautioned that the revenues in 2021, especially Q1 and Q2, may be significantly below projections as the impacts of the pandemic build up. Aistrope asked for further discussion, then called for a motion to approve.

Approval of July financials: Motions to approve: 1st Ali, 2nd Fishel; all in favor with no abstentions
Approval of August financials: Motions to approve: 1st Causevic, 2nd Maletin; all in favor with no abstentions

Contractors
Schutz reported that CleanStreet is stopping litter collection services in October and Clean Slate is taking over their SSA contracts. The cost and schedule of services will remain the same in 2020. Clean Slate allows for SSAs to specify when litter pickup will occur. Recommendations for morning service to have greater visibility and pick up trash from the night before.

Schutz reminded the Commission that the snow removal contract is going to a “per occurrence” plan for 2021 and for the remainder of 2020. Schutz expects that the $12,000 credit from last winter will be sufficient to cover snow removal expenses for the remainder of 2020.
Financial Analysis: Remainder of 2020
Schutz presented a detailed analysis of expenditures and adjustments for the remainder of 2020: “September - December 2020: Plan for SSA Services and Programs.” Now that the 2nd installment has mostly been received, consistent with February 2020 projections, the “Plan” updates the SSA services expenditures for the remainder of the year. Schutz reviewed in detail the adjustments and projected expenditures. Aistrope stated his appreciation for the work and clarity. Applegate stated that the goal is to support the businesses and districts during the ongoing impacts from the pandemic.

Updates
SSA Reconstitution – Staff are in discussion with city SSA staff and SB Friedman about filing for reconstitution November 2, 2020 to start the process. The objective is to identify an expanded service area to build on the success within the current boundaries. Staff will update Commissioners as this initial stage moves forward. Schutz shared the 2022 SSA timeline for reference.

Public Art - Schutz shared the art project for Lindo Michoacán windows at Lawrence and Kedzie in the meeting materials. The project, along with the Honore Storage mural at 3215 W Lawrence, is going ahead with support from the SSA.

District Development
Applegate updated Commissioners that the Celadon project at Lawrence and Central Park is moving forward to a community meeting on Thursday September 24th at 5:00pm.

Meeting concluded at 7:12 pm.

Next meeting is Wednesday, October 14th via Zoom at 5:30pm.