

WEST TOWN SPECIAL SERVICE AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 30, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stelios Valavanis, Greg Mack, Cheryl Jones, Walter Tun, Chris Ongkiko

MEMBERS ABSENT: Petar Tofovic, Bob O'Connell, Darci O'Connell

OTHERS PRESENT: Katharine Wakem (West Town SSA Program Manager), Kara Salgado (WTCC Executive Director), Kimberly Bares (PLACE Consultant), Noah Gordon (PLACE Consultant)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Cheryl Jones at 12:07 pm.
- II. **Materials Passed Out:** Agenda, proposed SSA Map, potential 2015 budget & work plan, and the needs assessment survey results.
- III. **Survey Results:** A door-to-door survey was conducted along the entire proposed new SSA – Ashland Avenue from Division to Chicago and Milwaukee Avenue from Division to Erie, Chicago Ave from Halsted to Western, Ogden Ave from Fry to the Kennedy Expressway, & Damen Ave from Chicago to Huron. Those who completed the survey included Business Owners, Business Managers, Property Owners and Residents. Some fell into more than one category. A summary of the results follow:

Out of 178 responses: 129 (72.4%) stated they wanted the West Town SSA to provide them services. 16 (8.9%) did not want the SSA. 55.3% wanted Marketing & Promotional Activities, 77.4% wanted Neighborhood Beautification, 53.1% wanted Special Events, 70.6% wanted Sidewalk Garbage Cans, 63.2% wanted Snowplowing, 64.9% wanted Graffiti Removal, 49.1% wanted Tenant Retention & Attraction services, 59.3% wanted Façade Improvement funding, 66.1% wanted Safety / Surveillance Cameras funding & 12% wanted "other" which included answers such as "none", "parking", "more street lights", "servicing / cleaning alleys", "high speed internet", "incentives to reduce empty storefronts", & "mailboxes".

Vote on Map: Based on the survey results, those present are in favor of keeping all current streets proposed within the new SSA.

Out of 112 responses (from those surveyed that are in the existing SSA);

Sidewalk Cleaning: 4% very dissatisfied, 6% dissatisfied, 12% neutral, 51% satisfied & 25% very satisfied

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Trash Can Servicing: 0% very dissatisfied, 4% dissatisfied, 12% neutral, 56% satisfied, 26% very satisfied.

Snow Removal: 6% very dissatisfied, 18% dissatisfied, 23% neutral, 33% satisfied, 17% very satisfied

Graffiti Removal: 4% very dissatisfied, 8% dissatisfied, 33% neutral, 37% satisfied, 16% very satisfied

Façade Enhancement: 0% very dissatisfied, 3% dissatisfied, 57% neutral, 21% satisfied, 17% very satisfied

Landscaping: 2% very dissatisfied, 4% dissatisfied, 41% neutral, 44% satisfied, 7% very satisfied

Holiday Decorations & Banners: 0% very dissatisfied, 4% dissatisfied, 18% neutral, 58% satisfied, 18% very satisfied

Marketing & Promotions: 0% very dissatisfied, 3% dissatisfied, 43% neutral, 40% satisfied, 11% very satisfied

Vote on Budget: Based on the survey results, there was no overwhelming response of dissatisfaction with the services so none were removed from the budget.

- IV. **Survey Comments:** It is requested that Kace review & report the comments to the advisory committee in preparation of the Community Meetings
- V. **SSA Budget:** Proposed work plan & budget were reviewed and approved to be presented at the Community Meetings.
- VI. **Next Meeting:** Two Community Meetings will be held on November 12 & November 18. The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be scheduled after the November Community Meetings are complete.
- VII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.