

Lincoln Avenue SSA # 35-2015
Commission Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2020 | 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Video Call

Commissioners Present: Kenneth Dotson, Mark Davis, Malcolm Craig, Benn Hamm,

Commissioners Absent: Edda Coscioni, Kevin Greco

LPCC Staff: Frank Kryzak, Bryan Biello, Kim Schilf

Public Forum:

Alderman's Office:

Call to Order

- I. Call to order by Dotson at 4:02 p.m.

New Business

- I. Lincoln Avenue Outdoor Dining Discussion
 1. As a reminder, in order to assist restaurants, the City has set up a program to expand outdoor dining onto the street. Alderman Smith and some restaurants on Lincoln Avenue were interested in getting this setup in our neighborhood.
 2. The LPCC with the support of the Lincoln Avenue SSA stepped in to come up with the idea of Feast on Lincoln. This would entail closing Lincoln Avenue between Wrightwood and Fullerton from 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays through midnight on Sunday for six weeks.
 3. After Schilf began initially received costs to execute this program, such as furniture rentals, barricade needs, staffing, and security, it was much more expensive than she anticipated. After scaling back the length of time and some of the needs, we are proposing hosting the Feast on Lincoln event for 6 weekends starting July 4th weekend. The total cost would be about \$40,000 for 6 weeks.
 4. Dotson asked what specific programs would need to be eliminated to pay for this program.
 - i. Kryzak commented that part of the funds would come from special events, which we don't currently have plans to use this year. In addition, the other funding would come from the fencing around the CTA substation for the "under the L" project, which would be pushed to 2021. However, there would be enough funding to still have mural painted on the substation this year.
 5. Davis asked who would handle clean up and maintenance of the tables.
 - i. Schilf explained there wouldn't be any communal tables and tables would be specific to restaurants, so the individual restaurants would be responsible for cleaning up trash and sanitizing tables. This information was included in the agreement all participating restaurants had to sign.
 6. Hamm noted that no one is allowed to walk up and down the street with food or drink. They must be seated when consuming food or beverages.
 7. Craig asked about the number of tables and chairs and how many we would be renting for the restaurants.
 - i. Schilf explained there are 11 restaurants participating. Nine of the 11 will be using 14 tables and the two others would have between six and eight tables.
 8. Craig also asked about other businesses on Lincoln participating outside of the closure area.

- i. Schilf commented that the City has made it very clear that a business must have a presence within the closure area to participate. However, we are exploring other options and trying to get clearer guidance.
9. Craig also asked Hamm if this would truly be beneficial for his business as a restaurant owner.
 - i. Based on what Hamm has seen and heard about the pilot program in Lakeview East, he thinks this will definitely help his business. He also believes it will be positive for the street.
10. Craig ultimately thinks this is a really good idea, but we mentioned that we shouldn't have to bear the cost of all the furniture and the commissioners should possibly consider having the restaurants pay into the event.
 - i. Not all commissioners agreed.
11. Davis asked about the budget breakdown week to week.
 - i. Schilf explained that each weekend would cost about \$6,200, \$4,200 of which would be labor, which includes security, setup and breakdown, and an event manager onsite. The remaining amount would be rental costs for equipment.
 - ii. Davis commented that based on the price would much rather do this for the street this summer to enliven the street and bring business back to the neighborhood.
12. Dotson likes the idea, but is concerned about the businesses outside of the closure area
 - i. The commissioners want to find a way to acknowledge the businesses outside of the closure area. This might include signage or flyers.
13. Schilf also noted that she wants this to be a true partnership with neighborhood groups, so we will be promoting Alderman Smith, the LPCC, the SSA, and Wrightwood Neighbors as the entities involved with making this happen.

Motion to approve moving \$32,000 from line item 2.05 (Streetscape Elements) to line item 1.02 (Special Events). Motion seconded. Unanimously approved.

Motion to approve using \$40,000 from line item 1.02 (Special Events) to fund the Lincoln Avenue outdoor dining program. Motion seconded. Unanimously approved.

II. Rebate Programs Update

1. Kryzak updated the commissioners about the second round of the health and sanitation rebate and the marketing rebate.
 - i. Both rebates are now live again and Kryzak has delivered information to all businesses on the SSA.
 - ii. An eblast has also gone out today to Lincoln Avenue merchants.
 - iii. The deadline is July 10.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting. Motion seconded. Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bryan Biello.