

**Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2025 – 4:30pm**  
**Uptown United Office**  
**4619 North Broadway**

Commissioners Present: Terry Tuohy (*Chair*), Matthew Ruffi (*Treasurer*),  
Noreen Keeney (*Secretary*), Kelly Cheng, Dominic Irpino,  
Todd Allen Israel, Nick Pinto, Lesley Showers, Karl Sullivan  
Commissioners Absent: Patti Hutzel (*Vice-Chair*)  
Others in Attendance: Justin Weidl, Sarah Wilson, Andy Pillman, Rosa Gamboa

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

- a. Ruffi called meeting to order at 4:35pm.

**2. Public Input**

- a. Gamboa introduced herself and expressed her interest in joining the SSA Commission.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

On acceptance of minutes for the below meeting:

*Motion to accept January 14<sup>th</sup> minutes.*

**Motion:** Cheng

**Second:** Sullivan

**VOTE:** Approve – All

Oppose – None

**Motion Passes**

**4. Budget and Financial Report**

- a. Weidl presented a financial report.  
i. Balance Sheet and Budget v Actuals looks healthy for this time of year.

**5. Public Art Grant Program**

- a. Weidl presented an application from Liz Flores to restore two murals.  
i. Tuohy recommended tabling this item until the Uptown Art Walk is planned.  
b. Weidl presented an application from Darius Dennis for a mural at Truman College.  
i. Ruffi recommended tabling this item until the Uptown Art Walk is planned.  
c. Weidl presented an application from Erik Peterson for a sculpture at the Grass Triangle.  
i. Tuohy recommended tabling this item until the Uptown Art Walk is planned.  
ii. Pinto expressed concern for future construction at that location.

**6. Community Event Grant Program**

- a. Weidl presented an application from Yoga Body Elements to facilitate free outdoor yoga weekly from June-October on Fridays at 11:00am at the Grass Triangle.  
i. Ruffi expressed concern related to the cost per person.  
ii. Weidl to work with applicant on budget.  
b. Weidl presented an application from Yoga Body Elements to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Uptown Wellness Festival at the Grass Triangle on Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am – 7:00pm.  
i. Ruffi expressed concern related to the cost per person.

*Motion to approve grant request from Yoga Body Elements.*

**Motion:** Ruffi

**Second:** Cheng

**VOTE:** Approve – None

Oppose – All

**Motion Fails**



- c. Weidl presented an application from Cornerstone Community Outreach to host the Chicago's Best Baker Contest at Wilson Abbey on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Motion to approve grant request from Cornerstone Community Outreach.*

**Motion:** Ruffi

**Second:** Irpino

**VOTE:** Abstain – Sullivan

Approve – All

**Motion Passes**

## 7. Curb Appeal Rebate Program

- a. Weidl presented an application from Uptown Branch Public Library to renovate the Not-So-Secret Garden at the library's entrance.

*Motion to approve application from Uptown Branch Library.*

**Motion:** Cheng

**Second:** Ruffi

**VOTE:** Approve – All

Oppose – None

**Motion Passes**

- b. Weidl presented an application from Fat Miilk for a new vestibule door system.

*Motion to approve application from Fat Miilk.*

**Motion:** Irpino

**Second:** Keeney

**VOTE:** Approve – All

Oppose – None

**Motion Passes**

## 8. Banner Program

- a. Weidl presented a grant request from Eddie Oppong to collaborate with local schools to design a light pole banner.

- i. Tuohy recommended that the collaboration design a mural panel.
- ii. Ruffi expressed budgetary concerns related to this expense.

## 9. Storefront Activation

- a. Weidl presented a request from JC Rivera to activate a storefront at 1109 W Lawrence.

- i. Ruffi expressed budgetary concerns related to this expense.

## 10. Litter Abatement Program

- a. Weidl provided an update on the new litter abatement crew.

- i. \$18,000 is available in this line item, but does not provide enough funding for trash receptacle services.
- ii. Tuohy recommended increasing hours for the Director of Neighborhood Services to perform streetscape maintenance services.

*Motion to allocate \$18,000 towards additional "in-house" maintenance hours.*

**Motion:** Irpino

**Second:** Ruffi

**VOTE:** Approve – All

Oppose – None

**Motion Passes**

## 11. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 12. Adjournment

*Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.*

**Minutes Submitted By:** Justin Weidl, *Director of Neighborhood Services*