Uptown SSA #34 Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 18th 2025 – 4:30pm Uptown United Office 4619 North Broadway

Commissioners Present: Terry Tuohy (Chair), Patti Hutzel (Vice-Chair), Matthew Ruffi (Treasurer),

Noreen Keeney (Secretary), Kelly Cheng, Dominic Irpino,

Todd Allen Israel, Karl Sullivan

Commissioners Absent: Nick Pinto, Lesley Showers,

Others in Attendance: Justin Weidl, Sarah Wilson, Andy Pillman, Rosa Gamboa

1. Welcome and Call to Order

a. Tuohy called meeting to order at 4:34pm.

2. Public Input

a. None.

3. 2024 Audit Report

- a. The audit report was not completed and will be presented at the April 15th meeting.
- b. Auditor identified approximately \$99,000 as a TIF Rebate recievable.
 - i. Ruffi recommended amending the 2025 budget to receive those funds in 2025.

4. Approval of Minutes

On acceptance of minutes for the below meeting:

Motion to accept February 11th minutes.

Motion: Ruffi Second: Cheng

VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

5. Budget and Financial Report

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

6. Public Art Grant Program

- a. Weidl presented a \$3,000 application from Jonathan Belair for a jazz themed panel mural for the west facing wall of Ace Hardware along Clifton Avenue.
 - i. Israel asked to confirm that grafitti sleant will be used. Weidl to confirm.

Motion to approve grant request from Jonathan Belair.

Motion: Ruffi Second: Irpino

VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

- b. Weidl presented a \$1,000 application from Morgan Nugent for a mural on the west facing door of Subway at 4556 N Magnolia Avenue.
 - i. Ruffi asked to confirm building owner approval. Weidl to confirm.
 - ii. Cheng expressed concern for copyright infrigments on the Snoppy character.
 - iii. Application to be tabled until building owner approval is confirmed and artist verifies no liability with copyright infringements.





7. Community Event Grant Program

Weidl presented a \$5,000 application from Buena Park Neighbors for a series of events.

Based on projected attendance Weidl recommended a \$4,000 grant amount. Motion to approve grant request from Buena Park Neighbors for \$4,000.

Motion: Cheng Second: Ruffi

VOTE: Abstain – Israel Approve – All **Motion Passes**

b. Weidl presented an \$825 application from Cornerstone Community Outreach to host a Clifton Avenue Block Party on Saturday, June 7th from 10:00am - 3:00pm.

Based on projected attendance Weidl recommended an \$800 grant amount.

ii. Ruffi questioned the anticipated attendance if the Uptown Art Walk is not the same day. Motion to approve grant request from Cornerstone Community Outreach for \$800.

Motion: Cheng Second: Keeney Abstain - Sullivan **VOTE:** Oppose – Ruffi Approve - All Others **Motion Passes**

8. Curb Appeal Rebate Program

- Weidl presented an application from Broadway Bikes for new signage at 4653 North Broadway.
 - Israel asked to see the design of the new signage.
 - Ruffi asked for application forms to be submited.

Motion to approve rebate for \$2,075 contingent upon design review and application submission.

Motion: Cheng Second: Israel

VOTE: Oppose - None Approve – All **Motion Passes**

9. Vacant Storefront Activation

- Weidl presented a \$5,000 request from JC Rivera to activate a vacant storefront at 1109 W Lawrence Avenue for three months.
 - Tuohy requested that the trimeframe be June August to coincide with summer and the CTA construction being completed. .

Motion to approve \$5,000 amount for vacant storefront activation at 1109 W Lawrence Avenue.

Motion: Ruffi Second: Cheng

VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

10. 2026 Work Plan & Budget

- Weidl provided an update on anticipated 2026 funding due to the Wilson Yard TIF expiration.
 - Tuohy recommended tabling this discussion until the April 15th meeting.

II. Next Uptown SSA Commission Meeting

a. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Minutes Submitted By: Justin Weidl, Director of Neighborhood Services