

Tuesday, April 21st 2026 – 4:30pm
Uptown United Office
4619 North Broadway

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

1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

2. Public Input

- a. None

3. Approval of Minutes

On acceptance of minutes for the below meeting:

Motion to accept March 17th minutes:

Motion: Cheng	Second: Keeney	
VOTE: Approve – All	Oppose – None	Motion Passes

4. Budget and Financial Report

- a. Weidl presented a financial report.
 - i. Cook County has begun distributing the 2025 1st installment payments.
 - ii. A TIF Rebate payment should be received in August.

5. Public Art Grant Program

- a. Weidl presented a request from JJ Equities to install a vinyl window mural at 1136 W Wilson Ave.

Motion to approve request:

Motion: Ruffi	Second: Keeney	
VOTE: Approve – All	Oppose – None	Motion Passes

- b. Weidl presented a request from Molly Z for monthly retainer services related to public artwork.
 - i. Tuohy requested a set of deliverables organized by month.

6. Landscape Program

- a. Weidl presented a request from Grow Uptown Garden for a Community Herb Garden.

Motion to approve request:

Motion: Irpino	Second: Keeney	
VOTE: Approve – All	Oppose – None	Motion Passes

- b. Weidl presented a request from Challenger Bark Park for dog park related items.
 - i. Showers recommended staff explore branded tennis balls to market the neighborhood.



7. Community Event Grant Program

- a. Weidl presented a grant application from CCO for the Chicago's Best Baker Event.

Motion to approve grant application:

Motion: Irpino **Second:** Keeney
VOTE: Approve – All Abstain – Sullivan **Motion Passes**

- b. Weidl presented a grant application from Ainslie Winmore Block Club for a block party.

- i. Ruffi requested that applicant submit the official application form.

Motion to approve grant application:

Motion: Cheng **Second:** Keeney
VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

8. Curb Appeal Rebate Program

- a. Weidl presented a rebate application from Thai Pastry located at 1113 W Argyle Street.

- i. Weidl reported that the applicant received a \$3,050 grant in December 2023.

Motion to approve rebate application:

Motion: Ruffi **Second:** Cheng
VOTE: Approve – Gamboa, Israel, Cheng, Keeney, Ruffi
Oppose – Tuohy, Irpino, Sullivan, Showers, Pillman **Motion Fails**

- b. Weidl presented a grant application from Nube's Ice Cream located at 4442 North Broadway.

Motion to approve rebate application:

Motion: Irpino **Second:** Ruffi
VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

9. Security Rebate Program

- a. Weidl presented a grant application from Thai Pastry located at 1113 W Argyle Street.

Motion to approve rebate application:

Motion: Ruffi **Second:** Irpino
VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

10. Strategic Communications Plan

- a. Weidl presented a summary of proposals received for a Strategic Communications Plan.

- i. After three interviews, staff and committee recommend All Together.

Motion to approve proposal by All Together with Teska Associates:

Motion: Ruffi **Second:** Cheng
VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**

11. Roofline Lights on Wilson Avenue

- a. Weidl presented an update on cost associated with roofline lights on nine (9) buildings.

Motion to increase budget from \$19,000 to \$25,000 for roofline lights along Wilson Avenue:

Motion: Ruffi **Second:** Keeney
VOTE: Approve – All Oppose – None **Motion Passes**



12. Community Engagement Management

- a. Weidl presented an update on the proposals received for a Community Engagement Manager.
- b. Wilson shared details related to how existing staff conducts community engagement.
- c. Wilson
 - i. Weidl to release RFP and Commissioners requested that Uptown United also present details for a staff position at the April 21st Meeting. Commissioners would like to select a consultant or approve a job description at the April 21st Meeting.

13. Next SSA Commission Meeting

- a. Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

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

