

SSA#28 Commissioners MeetingJan. 12, 2010**Mission: To act as a clearinghouse for Six Corners Association activities**

Item	Information	Action
Introductions	In attendance were (15): Commissioners: Joe Angelastri, chair; Gale Fabisch, incoming chair, Rudy Kubica, Marc Sussman, Dennis Wolkowicz, Sandra Maldonado and Jose Gato. Commissioners absent: Samer Natour and Vincent Mastromauro. Bob Brobson, Don Blair Michael Barret, Michael Inglimo, Dan Harkensee, Glenn Nadig, Marlene Raddatz and Marianne Rothstein	NA
Approval of minutes	Glenn N. made a motion to approve the minutes from the Dec. 8, 2009, Organizing Committee meeting and Joe A. seconded it	Minutes approved.
Motion to election a new chairperson	<p>Joe A. explained that the SSA chair position has a four-year term limit by ordinance and that he has served four years. A commissioner can serve indefinitely but can only serve four years as SSA chair. Therefore, Joe A. made a motion to nominate Gale Fabisch as SSA chair. Rudy K. seconded the motion. The roll-call vote was unanimous.</p> <p>Gale F. said he was honored to serve in this position. He said he had lived at Six Corners many years as well as many years in Old Irving Park. He currently lives outside the area but his family still owns property at Six Corners. His professional career was in environmental engineering and he is a real estate broker. He said he is "really enthusiastic" about Six Corners' ambition and "our plans to revitalize this area."</p> <p>Gale F. took over chairing the meeting.</p>	Gale F. elected new SSA #28 chair.
Motion to transfer funds.	Gale F. noted that the financial reports were part of the agenda packet and asked for a motion to transfer \$65,218.16 from the SSA Tax Receipts Fund to the SSA Programs Fund for 1st quarter operating expenses. Jose G. made the motion and Rudy K. seconded it. The motion carried by a voice vote with no dissenters.	Six Corners Association is authorized to transfer funds not to exceed \$65,218.16 in the first quarter.
Motion to accept year-end assessment	Gale F. asked Ed B. to review the year-end assessment. Ed B. noted all the accomplishments of the Six Corners Association as the SSA sole service provider. Ed B. pointed out that there were four tasks that the Six Corners Association was unable to accomplish in 2009. American flag were not hung on the pedestrian poles because those privately owned poles were removed by the	Ed B. to look into applying for recognition directly with the national program.

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	<p>owner in anticipation of the streetscape. Banners announcing the streetscape were not hung because it did not seem cost effective to hang banners on poles that would be coming down shortly. Other publicity measures were substituted. The "ambassador" program was shelved mid-year in anticipation of the long-term strategic plan, which is underway. In sum, 47 of the 51 SSA programs, or 92.2%, were completed.</p> <p>Jose G. asked how the homeless situation is monitored. Ed B. said mainly through tours of the alleys and other spots frequented by the homeless. Marc S. asked about the Illinois Main Street program, which was noted in the year-end report to not be currently accepting applications. Ed B. said the state program is on probation from the national organization due to understaffing by the state. The association plans to continue building its Main Street program. Ed B. to look into applying for recognition directly with the national program.</p> <p>Marc S. made a motion to accept the report and Joe A second. The report was accepted by a unanimous vote.</p>	<p>The report was accepted by a unanimous vote.</p>
<p>Economic Restructuring Committee report</p>	<p>ER Chair Don B. gave an update on the committee's recent work. In December, the Lakota Group was hired to write a strategic plan for the SSA to help the four committees develop best practices and near-term action items. The committee is contacting building owners of vacant properties to talk about taking down blighted signs. This project will have a good near-term effect to get momentum going. Lakota will identify other near-term action items and will create a land-use map building by building to identify possible improvements.</p> <p>Don B. spoke to a city staff person, C. Benet Haller, who said the city was on track for issuing a request for proposal (RFP) for the long-term plan by the end of January and selecting a consulting firm by the end of February. The report will take 6-8 months to do.</p> <p>Rudy K. asked about who will pay for sign removal. Don B. said there is money allocated in the SSA budget. If they volunteer to pay for it, so much the better, but the association doesn't want to pressure property owners to hard. Rudy K. said it would be unfair to charge the businesses that are surviving for removing another person's sign. Don B. said the net effect is that everyone will benefit. Rudy K. said to make sure the association gets a collective bid to get the best price. Glenn N. pointed out that the city has an abandoned sign ordinance. Don B. said we have that "stick" as an option but that we are starting</p>	<p>NA</p>

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	<p>with the "carrot" of a cooperative effort.</p> <p>Don said also planning a trip to Lincoln Square on Feb. 6. Ed B. to get information out about field trips. Ed B. credited residents with getting action on funding from TIF funding.</p>	
<p>Design Committee</p>	<p>Design Committee Chair Bob B. gave a report on the Design Committee's recent activities. He said he excited and honored to be the new chair. He moved to neighborhood about 3 years. The committee is focusing on four immediate agenda items: The four activities are: #1 Existing Storefront Survey and Plan. #2 Storefront Rehab #3 SBIF Grants and Business Assistance #4 Streetscape improvements</p> <p>The storefront survey and plan will be a visual tool to help the committee, property owners and business owner. The survey will be a series of photos stitched together so we can see the entire streetscape of Six Corners. The survey will also include information on who owns the storefronts. Having this information will help with the next two projects -- storefront rehab and Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) grants/business assistance. There's a need to communicate more about storefront design. This can be done through the newsletter or with small meetings with owners. This might also be accomplished through storefront renderings, talking about costs, doing renderings and talking about how can we get storefronts improved in the short term while vacant.</p> <p>Don B. said he is working on a SBIF securitization program to make it easier for businesses to take advantage of the program. One of the problems is that because the SBIF program is a reimbursement grant, the businesses have to come up with the cash up front, which can be a problem. He said banks might grant lines of credit based on the city approval of a SBIF grant and then the city pays the banks directly. This securitization could get credit flowing to Six Corners businesses. He will be following up with banks in early March.</p> <p>Bob B. said the streetscape improvements are under the Design Committee umbrella.</p> <p>Glenn N. said window displays are a key factor. he was glad that the association was making it a priority to get some businesses to do something with their windows. He said there are people in the neighborhood who might be willing to help out. Don B. said we can take pictures during field trips of successful storefronts and post them on website.</p>	<p>NA</p>

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	<p>Marc S. asked about signs to help people get to LaPorte lot. Six Corners should continue to attract people to the Laporte lot. He suggested posting signs at Irving and Laporte and Milwaukee and Cuyler.</p>	
<p>Promotions Committee</p>	<p>Michael I. noted that the mission of the Promotions Committee is to promote a positive image of Six Corners. But he asked, who are we marketing to? 1) is to public 2) our businesses 3) the government, city or state.</p> <p>To market to the public, the committee is working on the Facebook project, to get all the businesses to create a fan page on Facebook. Several raffles are going on this year and we are trying to promote those. Santa Claus came to Six Corners this year for the first time, and we are looking to do that again or revise it with a Santa's Workshop in one of the vacant storefronts in 2010.</p> <p>A subcommittee meeting to work on a district map to hang at the Portage will be held next week.</p> <p>The committee's long-term goals are to increase the area web presence and community presence. Don B. said residents coalition will be fanning out to collect e-mail addresses once weather gets warmer.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>Don B. said there are problems with massage parlors at Six Corners. Two local massage parlors have been investigated and the 16th District police are looking into it. Gale F. noted that a property owner has the right to refuse a commercial business as long as it's not for discrimination classes. Bob B. said the emphasis will be on communicating with property owners and communicating to them that we can do things that will increase rental rates.</p> <p>Marc S. commented that this meeting shows the most intensity that he's seen in a year and he wants to keep it up.</p> <p>Marlene R. noted that streetscaping is coming up. Marc S. said the construction went really quickly others agreed.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Marc S. made a motion to adjourn. Rudy K. seconded. Meeting adjourned about 2:04 p.m. The next meeting of the Organizing Committee will be 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 9 at the Six Corners Association office, 4006 N. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 205.</p> <p>The next SSA #28 commissioners meeting will be held 1 p.m., April 13, tentatively at Bank of America, 4901 W. Irving Park Road.</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>