

# STATE STREET COMMISSION

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ABC 7  
190 North State Street  
Thursday April 15, 2010  
8:30 AM

## MINUTES

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commission Members Present

Commissioner Emily Barr  
Commissioner Warrick Carter  
Commissioner Mary Dempsey  
Commissioner Paul Fitzpatrick  
Commissioner Ralph Hughes  
Commissioner Dean Lane  
Acting Commissioner Chris Raguso  
Commissioner Anne Voshel

#### Commission Members Absent

Commissioner Thomas Byrne  
Acting Commissioner Tom Powers  
Commissioner Lou Raizin

#### Others Present

Chad Bracke  
Graham Garfield  
Ron Graziano  
Madeleine Hill  
Laura Jones  
Brendan Reilly  
Connie Rivera  
Abel Rodriguez  
Ty Tabing  
Jeff Wilson  
Michelle Woods  
John Yonan

### AFFILIATION

ABC 7  
Columbia College  
Chicago Public Library  
Joseph Freed & Associates  
Macy's  
Palmer House  
Dept. of Community Development  
AVA/MR

Dept. of Streets and Sanitation  
CDOT  
Broadway in Chicago

City Escape  
Chicago Transit Authority  
CPD 001 District  
Alderman Reilly's Office, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Alderman, 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
City Escape  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Loop Alliance  
Chicago Transit Authority  
CDOT  
CDOT

### Call to Order

Chairman Ralph Hughes called the Thursday, April 15, 2010 meeting of the State Street Commission to order at 8:35 AM.

### Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Fitzpatrick made a motion to accept the minutes from the Thursday, March 18, 2010 State Street Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Carter. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### Introduction to City Escape/2010 Landscaping

Utilizing large colored renderings on foam board, City Escape's Connie Rivera and Chad Bracke walked Commissioners through State Street landscaping plans for the coming year. Over 400 shrubs will be

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added, and the summer planting will be in shades of red and orange to compliment the Tony Tasset Cardinal banners. This work should begin around May 15<sup>th</sup> and be completed in time for the Memorial Day Parade. A sub-contractor for City Escape, Bartlett Trees, will do a spider mite and disease preventive injection on State Street trees this year instead of spraying them later. This scope of tree work in 2010 also includes a hazard and health pruning.

Commissioner Lane commented that the planter concepts were beautiful – until you add the cigarette butts tossed into them by pedestrians. How do we keep up with maintenance on this problem? Rivera responded that it was a matter of crews being out there more frequently, which they will be. City Escape is a woman-owned business with a full service garden center located nearby. Bracke is in charge of the street crews and will be driving by, stopping, and inspecting on a regular basis.

On behalf of the Commission, Laura Jones publicly thanked Alderman Reilly and Louis Greenebaum in the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ward office for introducing an ordinance to waive landscaping/water fees for the State Street planters.

### **Update on Wacker Drive/Congress Construction**

CDOT's Michelle Woods and John Yonan updated the Commission on construction and street closures. Woods will be the point person for any questions or issues during the next 3 years. A website, [www.wackerdrive.org](http://www.wackerdrive.org) contains the latest information and traffic times. Woods and Yonan addressed several questions, including several on funding and materials. This is not a stimulus project. CDOT and IDOT are working together closely to fund and coordinate these major projects. High performance concrete containing latex, which lessens the absorption of salt, will be used.

### **Review/Vote: 2009 SSA Audit & 2010 Budget Changes**

Abel Rodriguez referred to the audit and budget changes contained in the Commission packets. He said that the 2009 audit went very well. The accounting firm, ACT Group, did not have any recommendations. We wound up with a slight surplus of \$30,896 because we budgeted 20% for non-collection, and it turned out to be less. Going forward, we are using 15%, although at average the loss has been 10%. CLA's Finance Committee reviewed the audit.

Regarding the 2010 Budget, changes were made to more accurately reflect the Safer Foundation's final contract amount and a change in the loss collection to 15%.

Commissioner Voshel made a motion to accept the audit and budget changes. Commissioner Barr seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Continued Discussion: Holiday Concepts**

Ty Tabing reported that he, Chairman Hughes and Commissioners Raizin and Voshel had met with the Mayor regarding the proposal for a State Street LED holiday lighting concept that would go beyond the traditional Christmas season and include Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, etc. Initially the LEDs would be installed only in the trees, but in subsequent years LEDs could light subway kiosks, planter elements, and even banners. The Mayor was supportive of the concept, which would enliven State Street year-round.

Some trees may need to be replaced, the cooperation of BOE will be needed for infrastructure improvements, and the cost for a 3-5 year display would be in the \$1.3 million range which would require a loan secured on the basis of future cash flow. A warranty and ongoing maintenance would be built into the package price. Before proceeding, a mock-up will be done in front of Old Navy to

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determine how many lights are needed (anywhere from 300 – 1200 per tree) and how impactful the lighting is during different hours of the day. The mock-up lights have been ordered.

Madeleine Hill said that Alderman Reilly had not been part of the holiday concept process and that a variety of city approvals would be required. Chairman Hughes said he would set up an appointment with the Alderman to go over the concepts with him, which were presented at the March State Street Commission meeting.

### **Status Reports/Outstanding Issues**

#### **Sole Service Provider Report**

Ty Tabing reported on the ongoing Pop-up Art Loop™ program. One of CLA's challenges has been to get impactful art, and one of the possible solutions is to form partnerships with other institutions or organizations. For example, the Mexican American Art Museum is taking a Pop-up space. The Pop-ups, which CLA has been working on for awhile, are leading us to a new initiative. We are looking at replicating a 10 day art competition which started in Grand Rapids, MI. It's called Art Prize and it's sort of a combination of Match.com and American Idol. Real estate spaces (not necessarily vacant) are matched with artists and the public is asked to visit them and vote for their favorites. The winner gets a \$250,000 prize. Obviously, we would not be offering that large of a prize and we would have to put the event on the back burner unless we can find a sponsor (possibly Coca-Cola). If all goes well, the Chicago Artists Coalition would run the contest for us, and the event would occur as the culmination of the Tony Tasset exhibit in October and as the main attraction to the city's Chicago Artist's Month celebration.

Next Monday, CLA has another appointment to see CTA President Rodriguez. Last month, Chairman Hughes, Commissioners Fitzpatrick and Raizin and Tabing discussed the vacant State Street subway kiosks between Madison and Washington with Rodriguez. The agenda included looking at possible re-use scenarios since the entrances will be closed for the foreseeable future, obtaining keys to clean the glass inside, and a way to vacuum the cigarette butts out of the grates behind the stairwells. The grates cannot be enclosed since they allow the air to escape that is created by subways coming into the station below.

After the Mayor saw white litter flying around State Street after hours, the city's Budget Director called CLA in for a meeting to express the city's desire to have more cleaning services on State Street ASAP. Service is currently provided by Safer Foundation 7 days a week from 6:00 AM until 10:30 PM; the city wants 24/7 service. CLA is working with Streets & Sanitation now to come to a compromise or resolution. Adding 24/7 service would cost SSA#1 an estimated additional \$125,000 for a 4<sup>th</sup> shift. Commissioner Voshel commented that she believes the trash may be coming from Benton Place dumpsters behind the Chicago Theatre. The neighboring buildings have been working for over a year on a shared compactor agreement. Commissioners agreed cleanliness is paramount but in general felt there were better things to spend \$125,000 on than an increase in Safer's hours.

Commissioner Dempsey requested that Safer come by Pritzker Park more. Now that the weather is warmer, people are eating their lunch outside and leaving food to feed the pigeons. The anti-pigeon "hawk sound system" that was installed on the nearby el platform is not as effective when there is a food source.

Commissioners discussed the cigarette butt problem and whether it would be possible to install ash urns along State Street. There's already too much street furniture, and positioning is a problem. They can't be placed next to a building because smokers are supposed to stay 15' away from entrances by law. If

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you attach ashtrays to existing trash cans, live butts could start a fire. If you place standing urns on the sidewalk close to the curb you need a permit to occupy the public way. Commissioner Voshel asked Alderman Reilly if it would be possible to waive permit fees to make the street cleaner. The Alderman said he'd be happy to explore the possibility, how such a program might work, and design standards. CDOT needs to be involved. He asked that we assemble some information and a funding source and get back to him.

### **Security**

Sgt. Graziano conveyed Commander Kennedy's apologies for missing the meeting. He updated the Commission on recent arrests and May 1<sup>st</sup> Polish Constitution Day Parade staging and street closures. The May Day March starts at 3 PM the same day, but fortunately May 1<sup>st</sup> is a Saturday so traffic will not be impacted as much.

Commissioners said they were still hearing a lot of complaints about the homeless and panhandling. Sgt. Graziano reiterated that the police can ask them to move, but it's not illegal to be homeless and panhandling, unless it's aggressive, is legal. Chairman Hughes said he didn't see as many police on segways as he used to. Graziano said he'd check with the Commander on that. Alderman Reilly said he'd be happy to assist with the panhandling issue. Call his office. They coordinate with both the Commander and Streets & Sanitation.

### **Street and Sanitation**

No one from the Department of Streets & Sanitation attended the meeting.

### **Transportation and Infrastructure**

Laura Jones read parts of an email from CDOT's Len Wojcik that addressed some of the infrastructure issues raised at the March Commission meeting. Unresolved issues included the condition of vacant DeCaux newsstands and the removal of empty call boxes and other unneeded street furniture. The corner of State & Randolph is a particular problem. Alderman Reilly asked that we send pictures illustrating the problem to Commissioner Powers and John Yonan and copy him.

Although CDOT says the Wabash accent lighting is complete, Ty Tabing commented that it didn't look like it. John Yonan responded that there may be things that CDOT can do to make the steel bands and junction boxes look more aesthetically pleasing, but it's possible they were not painted because paint does not adhere well to stainless steel. There also may be a problem coordinating work with the CTA.

Holophane, the company which originally installed the State Street banner arms during the 1995 State Street Renovation Project, has not been responsive in helping us find replacement banner arms for those that are missing. They claim the company that originally manufactured them has gone out of business. Commissioner Voshel suggested asking Turner Construction if they had another resource.

Commissioners Fitzpatrick and Lane expressed their concern to John Yonan about the failing condition of the infrastructure on Monroe. Letters with photos were previously sent to the Alderman. Yonan responded that there was a phased plan to redo the side streets, but due to budget cuts it is on hold. CDOT will look into the situation. Alderman Reilly reminded Fitzpatrick and Lane that the repair of occupied vault space is the responsibility of the building owner, but the city would be happy to do a survey.

### **Loop Development Report**

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Commissioner Raguso reported that TIF financing for 188 West Randolph went to City Council. Their financing gap was \$34 million. She thanked Laura Jones for testifying at CDC on their behalf.

### **Other Business**

Commissioners briefly discussed a letter from OEMC that was included in the packets, asking business owners in the Central Business District to participate in the Private Sector Camera Initiative.

There will be a CLA membership event tonight at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts/Oriental Theatre. Participants are invited to a pre-show reception, followed by a performance of Billy Elliot.

Commissioner Carter is celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> year at Columbia College Chicago with a free jazz concert this weekend. Laura Jones will email Commissioners an invitation.

The next State Street Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM. The agenda includes the final approval of all 2011 SSA documents, which must be submitted to the city by July 9<sup>th</sup>.

There being no other business, Commissioner Raguso made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 AM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Voshel  
Secretary