

Special Service Area #20 Western Avenue
Commissioner Meeting
March 13, 2018

The meeting was held at the Original Pancake House, 10437 S. Western Ave., and began at 9:00 a.m. Margie O'Connell called the meeting to order and Beverly Lynch seconded it.

The attendees were commissioners Margie O'Connell, Jimo Kasali, Bryan Farrell, Beverly Lynch and Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association Executive Director Caroline Connors. Also in attendance were George Herzog, MPBHBA board president, and 19th Ward Ald. Matt O'Shea.

Caroline thanked the commissioners for their continued service and explained that the 2019 budget planning process had begun. The commissioners reviewed the year-end 2017 expenses. It was agreed that the commission would meet with accountant Monica McCue from Desmond & Ahern to review the expenses in greater detail and ask questions.

Margie told Matt O'Shea that the commission asked him to attend the meeting to provide information on upcoming projects on Western Avenue so as to ensure the services provided by the SSA are not in conflict with potential infrastructure projects or improvements.

Updates provided by Matt include:

Western Avenue will receive new LED street lights in 2018 and Peoples Gas will complete the upgrade project in the ward this fall.

There are no water or sewer projects scheduled for Western Avenue.

Matt will inquire with the city of Chicago about electricity on existing street light poles for holiday decorations.

Vehicular speed on Western Avenue could be controlled by the use of additional speed cameras, which are already in use near parks and schools in the ward.

It's not feasible to put crosswalk signs on Western Avenue because they cannot be used on four-lane roadways and there is the concern of a false sense of security/safety by pedestrians, which could be dangerous if a motorist didn't stop.

Street repair will be handled on an as-needed basis; all wards receive \$1.3 million in menu money, most of which goes to street repair in the 19th Ward, which has 145 miles of residential roadway. The cost to repair a residential street is \$51,000.

Sidewalk repair in front of commercial buildings is the responsibility of the property owners. The money can also come from the local TIF but there is no money available in the TIF for Western Avenue.

A 2015 survey of ward residents determined that many people want bike sharing. Matt is looking into Line Bike, a dock-less bike-sharing program that may do a pilot program in Beverly/Morgan Park.

Beverly Lynch mentioned that her business is bike friendly. Caroline will create an initiative to promote and advertise bike and dog-friendly businesses on Western Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 in a motion by Margie O'Connell and seconded by Bryan Farrell.