



**Czech Village New Bohemia SSMID Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2020 | 8:30-10:00 a.m. | Zoom Meeting**

The Czech Village New Bohemia SSMID Commission met virtually in regular session. Those present are listed below. The meeting was held as an electronic regular Commission meeting because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Commissioners, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

Present: Craig Byers, Lijun Chadima, Ben Dillon, Stephanie Jelinek, Ana McClain, Mary Kay Novak McGrath, James Piersall, Bob Schaffer

Absent: Chad Pelley

Guests: Abby Huff & Monica Vernon – Main Street, Jennifer Pratt – City of Cedar Rapids

Economic Alliance Staff: Jessica Komisar, Phil Wasta

Welcome and Call to Order

Piersall welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Chadima moved approval of the agenda with Schaffer seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chadima moved approval of the November minutes with Byers seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

2021 Budget Discussion & Approval

Piersall reviewed the proposed draft 2021 budget which includes:

- Income (\$47,580)
 - \$47,580 SSMID tax revenue projection
- Expenses (\$47,580)
 - \$7,500 streetscape operations (planting, watering, liability insurance)
 - \$7,500 streetscape capital (new installations)
 - \$1,000 Czech parking lot set-aside
 - \$20,080 general project bucket
 - \$5,000 year 3 ConnectCR pledge
 - \$6,500 Main Street contract and admin costs
- Reserve Funds (\$34,000)
 - \$4,000 Czech parking lots (if repairs come up, Czech Village would make ask of SSMID and Czech Village would pay for half and SSIMD would pay for half up to line item maximum)
 - \$5,000 capital improvement fund
 - ~\$25,000 undesignated reserves

November financials will be sent to Commissioners with finalized minutes. Vernon said her records show \$7,500 given to the Economic Alliance Foundation for the Mucha mural so those funds will need to be in the reports.

Chadima moved to approve the 2021 budget with Schaffer seconding. The 2021 budget was approved.

Disbursement Agreement Discussion

During November's meeting, it was approved that the SSMID would enter into a disbursement agreement with the City of Cedar Rapids to gain access and more control over SSIMD dollars. Vernon said she would like to change that and not

enter into the agreement due to the change in admin services. Vernon said she has talked with Casey Drew and she has been assured the SSIMD will have a designated City employee to write checks and send financials in a timely fashion every month. Vernon said she would like to keep these responsibilities with the City as they do not charge for these services and they have the due diligence to provide accurate numbers. Chadima moved to approve not entering into the disbursement agreement with the City at this time with Schaffer seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

SSMID and Main Street Agreement

Vernon provided a contract for Main Street and the SSMID, similar to the Economic Alliance and SSMID contract. The contract spells out responsibilities and fees of Main Street. The contract is set-up on an annual basis and will be reviewed at the end of each calendar year. Chadima moved to approve the agreement and allowing Piersall to sign with Byers seconding. The motion was unanimously approved.

Public Art Update

The public art committee has reviewed the progress of 2020 including the completion of the Mucha Mural and will need to brainstorm what the next project will be – lighting, sculpture, another mural, etc. Byers said we did a mural very well and we have the resources and a better understanding of the cost and thinks the SSMID should do another mural on the NewBo side for 2021. Novak McGrath said finding space for a mural might be easier than space for a sculpture and likes the idea of another mural. Chadima asked if we can install art on the flood wall. Pratt said we are not allowed to attach something to the wall because they need to be able to examine the wall for any cracks/maintenance. McClain said she would like to see a project that will last for decades and can last the test of time and thinks something other than a mural might have a longer lifespan such as a welcoming archway to the district. Jelinek said she is still interested in her 3rd Street pedestrian/light area between 10th and 12th Aves and has received information from an engineering firm that she can pass along.

Vernon said the SSMID will be seeking renewal in 2022 and needs to be able to show tangible projects that have been completed as well as projects that are being planned. It will be important to stay on a parallel track with these projects to ensure we are easing into the next one in a timely and organized manner. Wasta recommended having some of these beautification/streetscape conversations with the City to see if they align with their projects to potentially create matching dollars.

Piersall said the public art committee will come to the next meeting with a recommendation on what can be done in 2021.

Streetscape & Snow Removal

Huff said the streetscape and beautification committee needs a Commissioner on the committee. McClain volunteered and Piersall asked if Schaffer would be able to as well. Chadima asked about the streetlights in the district that have not been repaired. Vernon said the streetlights in the district are still City owned and to create a list of streetlights with repairs so the City has that list and knows which ones need attention. Huff said we will also need to create a renewal committee.

Commissioners discussed current snow removal procedures and if there's potential to consolidate efforts. In Czech Village, the Czech Village Association has taken care of shoveling a path in front of businesses on 16th Avenue and NewBo property owners have been responsible for the space in front of their properties whether they plow themselves or hire a contractor with the biggest issue being timing – some remove snow early, others wait until later. Commissioners talked about what it would cost for unified snow removal and Piersall estimated at least \$15k. Byers said he likes the idea of trying to make it more unified but logistically, it will be difficult.

Mucha Mural License Agreement Status

Piersall said there is no update on the license agreement with the Czech Museum but will continue to move it forward. Products at the museum with the Mucha image will likely be available in the Spring.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.