

Devon SSA 43 Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2017 6:00pm

Office of 50th Ward Ald. Silverstein 2949 W. Devon Avenue

Commissioners Present: Irshad Khan, Maura Levit, Pete Valavanis

Commissioners Not Present: Bhavesh Patel, Sanhita Agnihotri

Service Provider Staff Present: Sandi Price and Gina Caruso (Rogers Park Business Alliance)

Public Officials Present: 50th Ward Alderman Debra Silverstein

Public Present: Bob Wissman (ACT Group), Robert Taylor (West Ridge Chamber of Commerce)

1. **Call to Order:** Irshad called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.
2. **March 2017 Minutes:** The minutes were approved by Maura with a second by Pete.
APPROVED
3. **Financial Report:**
 1. **2016 Audit.** Sandi introduced Bob Wissmann from ACT Group, which was retained to perform the SSA 43 2016 Audit. Bob reviewed the audit with the Commissioners and noted there were no findings needing remedy. Peter motioned to approve the audit with a second by Maura. APPROVED
 2. **2018 Work Plan and Budget:** Sandi and Gina facilitated a discussion with the Commissioners about their program and budget priorities for 2018. The discussion also included updates on 2017 programming.
 1. Increase landscaping to account for new streetscape landscaping
 2. Holiday decorations – consider putting lights on light poles on a semi-permanent basis and/or change colors for the seasons. Look into stringing lights from pole to pole parallel to the street.
 3. Get cost estimates for 2017 as well as 2018 for pressure washing sidewalks to address gum and spit stains.
 4. Inventory Bigbelly's to determine which can be repaired and dispose the ones that cannot be repaired. Work with the 50th Ward Streets and Sanitation Ward office to determine trash hot spots and whether to put new trash cans in those spots that complement the streetscape. RPBA to get a litter report from CleanStreet to know trash hot spots to help plan for trash cans. Invite Mike Hein from the 50th Ward Sts/San office to the May meeting.
 5. Identify sites for public art.
 6. Allocate funds for special events
 7. Allocate funds for conferences and training and show Commissioners conference programs to see which ones they may want to attend.

8. Commercial vacancies – get property owners names for long term vacancies—allocate funds to commercial attraction initiatives. And have an intern get additional business info.
9. Find ways to celebrate the holidays on the street. Dawali Hanukah Christmas and other holidays. The 2017 Sidewalk Sale is planned for Sunday July 9th
10. Don't need to fund security patrol.

3. Business Support

1. **Branding and communications**—Commission likes Hello Howard website and agree to the need to come up with something catchy – get bids for a catchy line and the website and on branding and website development.

Motion to adjourn at 7:40pm by Pete with a second by Maura APPROVED