



Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Monday, July 15, 2019 2:30pm - 4:30pm
2949 W. Devon Ave., Chicago

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Sanhita Agnihotri, Irshad Khan, Maura Nemes, Jayesh Shewakramani, Pete Valavanis, Rebeca Vasquez

Commissioners Absent: Avi Bereliani

Commissioner Candidates Present: Junaid Butt

Commissioner Candidates Absent: Mohammad Bozai

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

Public Officials Present: Alderman Debra Silverstein

Guests: Robert Taylor, Republic Bank

- I. Call to Order at 2:40pm.
- II. Public Input – Robert updated on the On Devon Fest and Silk Road Rising theater company, which is looking for space to do theater productions. He reported on the Chamber’s new Innovation Center for free office work space, computers and technical assistance for businesses.
- III. Review and approve draft June 2019 Meeting Minutes -Motion to approve the June minutes by Rebeca with a second by Peter. APPROVED
- IV. Financials - Sandi passed out financials through May and will have June this week and will send them out. With the second installment tax bills due soon, the second half levy will be coming in soon. Gina reported that DPD conditionally approved the 2019 budget revision for funding for security cameras and is doing its final review/approval of the 2020 work plan budget. Ald. Silverstein will submit a support letter.
- V. Programs & Services
 - a. Security Camera Program Scope/Fee Update - Irshad reported that he’s working with CPD to coordinate the locations for cameras as the original scope was for putting cameras on private property as opposed to public property. See the Finance section above for discussion on 2019 funding.



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- b. Public Way Beautification
 - i. Holiday Decorations –Light Pole Mandalas Scope/Fee Update. The Commission wants to install four mandalas at each of the following intersections, pending final field checks: Western Ave., California Ave., Leavitt Ave., Rockwell Ave., Sacramento Blvd. plus ones on Western at Granville, Ardmore, and Seeley. Motion to approve 23 mandalas by Pete with a second by Maura with RPBA trying to get a further discount. APPROVED (JAY opposed)

- c. Public Way Maintenance
 - i. Pressure Washing Scope/Fee Update- The Commission discussed doing the pressure washing. Motion to approve doing the pressure washing by Pete with a second by Rebeca. APPROVED (Jay abstained)

 - ii. Snow Removal Proposal Review – Gina presented the proposal summaries. The Commission requested having the respondents attend next meeting to answer questions about their scope/costs.

- d. Customer Attraction
 - i. Special Events
 - 1. Movie Night September 15th – There’s an opportunity for Commissioners to volunteer to be ambassadors and help greet people.
 - 2. Devon's Got Talent – Gina reminded the Commission about the opportunity to sponsor the event and handed out the sponsor form they were emailed by Big Buzz Idea Group.
 - 3. Mural – Gina updated the Commission on the potential mural sites. Jay’s family would do a mural on their building at 2545 W Devon (former Bank of America site).

- e. Economic Development
 - i. Devon SSA Strategic Planning and Market Study Process will start in August and during an SSA Commission meeting we’ll go through what we learned.



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VI. SSA Commission

- a. Candidate Update- Mohammed Bozai has been unresponsive for completing missing paperwork and has not been attending the Commission meetings.
- b. Next meeting: 8/26/19 2:30pm – 4:30pm

VII. Old & New Business

- a. Opened / Closed Businesses – no update.
- b. Gina reported on a public art project for a “Little Free Library” box on Devon proposed by artist Urooj Shakeel, a School of the Art Institute graduate who has a grant to do a Little Free Library and an artist to do a Pakistani/Indian truck art theme. They recommend installing it by Gareeb Nawaz, 2032 W Devon. The Commission is supporting of helping Urooj on this project. Jay offered to have it and a truck art mural done on his family’s building at 2545 W Devon. Gina is following up with the artist on next steps/timing.

- VIII. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn at 3:45pm by Maura with a second by Sanhita. APPROVED