



Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2020 2:30pm - 4:30pm

2949 W. Devon Ave., Chicago

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Junaid Butt, Avi Bereliani, Irshad Khan, Maura Nemes, Jayesh Shewakramani, Rebeca Vasquez, Sanhita Agnihotri

Commissioners Absent: Pete Valavanis, Mohammed Bozai (pending commissioner)

Service Provider Staff Present: Sandi Price and Cindy Plante, Rogers Park Business Alliance

Public Officials Present: Alderman Debra Silverstein

Guests: Larissa Tyler from the West Ridge Chamber

- I. Call to Order at 2:42pm.
- II. Public Input – Jay announced that he spoke with the management of the Devon/Rockwell parking structure and they said they plan to open in 2-3 weeks for public parking. They've applied for permits for a new sign – we should follow up with them and see if they're interested in BIP.
- III. Review and approve draft November 2019 Meeting Minutes.
Motion to approve the minutes by Jay with a second by Rebecca. APPROVED
- IV. Review & approve financials from January-November 2019.
Motion to approve by Maura and seconded by Avi. APPROVED
- V. Old Business
 - a. Security Camera Program
 - i. Sandi reported that in the time we've been waiting to install the cameras that were approved for 2019, the City came and installed other, additional cameras without telling us. We're still waiting on an invoice from the City for the 3 cameras that the SSA will be paying for. The locations for these are Devon & Kedzie facing east, Devon & Levitt facing east, and Devon and Campbell facing east. These will be regular cameras, not the LPR ones.
 - ii. Irshad asked about funding for installation of outdoor cameras at individual businesses. Sandi reminded the group that the SSA can only fund outdoor cameras in the front of the business – cameras inside or facing the alley aren't eligible. It's been difficult to navigate because many businesses have camera systems where multiple indoor and outdoor cameras share the same DVR or storage space. In the past the maximum rebate for outdoor security camera installation has been \$1500. Suggested addressing requests on a case-by-case basis to ensure eligibility.



Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

- b. Public Way Maintenance
 - i. Snow Removal Debrief – Sandi said that the snowfall over the weekend was less than 1 inch so Tovar didn't come out.
 - ii. Cindy provided an update on the broken tree grates – CDOT will be removing the damaged ones soon and putting mulch down until they come out to do replacements in the spring. They also recommended that we have them enlarge the tree holes on 18 tree pits where the tree is outgrowing the current openings. The city will be billing the SSA for this work and we're awaiting their invoice.
 - iii. Commissioners requested that RPBA maintenance director Brandon Harding be invited to the February commissioners meeting.
 - c. Ambassador zone visits & BIP open house
 - i. Commissioners identified April 27 from 2-4pm as the date for the next BIP open house. Junaid will host at Sabri Nihari. The plan is to do two of these in 2020 rather than quarterly. Cindy will reach out to sign and façade contractors to come out so people can get quotes on the spot, and will put together a list of businesses that we want to encourage to apply. Ambassador zone visits will be scheduled for the weeks leading up to the event to get people to attend.
 - d. Candidate Updates
 - i. The City has requested new financial disclosure forms for 2020 from commissioners awaiting approval.
- VI. New Business
- a. Devon's Got Talent 2020
 - i. Cindy shared that Big Buzz has sent their proposed contract for management of Devon's Got Talent 2020. The contract amount is slightly higher than last years'. They're awaiting a date and venue from us. Commissioners identified November 8, 2020 as the date for DGT and will plan to hold it at the Croatian Cultural Center again.
Larissa shared that the West Ridge chamber hasn't identified a date yet for the On Devon festival but indicated that they are NOT planning to have it over Labor Day Weekend.
 - b. Strategic Plan Review/Update
 - i. Commissioners discussed the strategic plan document that was prepared based on the discussion at December's strategic plan retreat. Key points included strategic partnerships with other organizations (including the West Ridge Chamber) and focus on business attraction to fill vacant storefronts.
- VII. Adjournment at 4:21. Motion to adjourn by Avi with a second by Maura. APPROVED

Next meeting: February 10, 2020