

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting  
Friday, April 3, 2020; 2:30pm  
Google Hangouts <https://meet.google.com/qrs-dkts-dgi>  
dial in: +1 573-518-7067 PIN: 472 948 794#



## MINUTES

**Members Present:** Pete Valavanis, Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri, Rebeca Vasquez, Mohammed Junaid, Avi Bereliani,  
**Staff Present:** Cindy Plante, Rogers Park Business Alliance  
**Others Present:** Anea Lay & Jennifer Gurerro, City Bureau  
Ald. Debra Silverstein

### **I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:45.

Cindy reminded participants that they're muted by default when joining the meeting - to unmute yourself, click the microphone icon at the bottom of your screen.

### **II. Public Input**

Anea and Jennifer from City Bureau introduced themselves - they're here to observe and won't be actively participating.

### **III. BIP Funding request for Devon/Rockwell Parking Garage Sign**

Cindy provided a summary of the application from the owners of the parking garage at Devon and Rockwell and showed the drawing of the proposed signage via screen share. The request is for the maximum of \$5,000 based on the estimates submitted for installation of a blade sign for the parking garage.

Commissioners asked Ald. Silverstein if the proposed sign had been approved. Ald. Silverstein said that the proposed design for the sign was shared with her and had been approved some time ago. The garage still hasn't opened yet for public parking yet because of problems with the elevator.

Irshad asked that the notice to proceed letter include language making issuance of the reimbursement check contingent upon the parking garage opening for public parking. Cindy Agreed.

Irshad moved approval. Approved 5-0.

### **IV. Restaurant meals for first responders - budget approval**

Ald. Silverstein shared background on the proposal - the SSA is being asked to provide funding to place catering orders from restaurants in the SSA for delivery to healthcare workers and first responders at the local police station, fire

stations, and St. Francis and Swedish Hospitals during the COVID-19 emergency. Doing so provides needed business to restaurants that have been forced to scale back during the stay-at-home order and also supports local emergency workers.

Commissioners asked which restaurants have been contacted and how outreach is being handled. Cindy responded that staff from RPBA and the West Ridge chamber have been making calls and put together a spreadsheet of restaurants in SSA43 that are still open for delivery and takeout. Larissa at the West Ridge Chamber is handling scheduling.

Commissioners asked Cindy to share the list of restaurants that have been contacted and prepare an information sheet that commissioners can share with other restaurant owners on Devon about how to sign up.

Mohammed Junaid asked about budget and requirements for meals.

Ald. Silverstein said that the expected budget was \$1,000 to \$1,500 per meal given the number of people being served. The hospitals are specifically asking that food be individually packaged rather than family-style or buffet trays. Things like sandwiches, samosas, falafel, individually wrapped baked goods or packaged chips and drinks. Police and fire aren't as strict about packaging but need items to be delivered at specific times.

Cindy asked the commissioners to approve a maximum budget amount for this; and suggested funding it out of the Economic Development budget category, which has \$65,000 in it for 2020 which was intended to fund weekend shuttle service.

Pete asked about outreach efforts given how many of the commissioners are restaurant owners - need to ensure fairness and transparency so it doesn't look like commissioners are just enriching themselves. Need to make sure that many restaurants are able to take part. Cindy agreed, shared that the first restaurants to do deliveries today were Villa Palermo (not a commissioner) and Great Chicago (is a commissioner).

Mohammed moved to authorize up to \$25,000 to start and moving to 2 meals per week instead of just one.

Approved 6-0.

## **V. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:10

**Next meeting:** Monday, 4/20/ 2020; 2:30pm, google hangouts