



Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2020 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Sabri Nihari 2502 W. Devon Ave., Chicago

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Mohammed Junaid, Irshad Khan, Maura Nemes, Sanhita Agnihotri, Pete Valavanis,

Commissioners Absent: Rebeca Vasquez, Jayesh Shewakramani, Avi Bereliani, Mohammed Bozai (pending commissioner)

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

Public Officials Present: Alderman Debra Silverstein

Guests: Larissa Tyler from the West Ridge Chamber,
Karen Forte from City of Chicago Dept. of Planning & Development

- I. Call to Order at 2:30pm.
- II. Presentation from West Ridge Chamber
Larissa Tyler from the West Ridge Chamber gave a presentation on the organization and their proposal to take over as Service Provider Agency for SSA43.
- III. Review and approve draft January Meeting Minutes.
Pete moved approval, Maura seconded. APPROVED 5-0
Irshad asked about the status of Mohammed Bozai's commissioner application. Sandi replied that it's still pending due to outstanding City debt.
- IV. BIP funding application for Annapurna at 2600 W. Devon .
Cindy provided a summary of the application and request. They're seeking \$5,000 for new signage and awnings for the corner storefront.
Pete asked about the windows and storefront system, feels it looks too similar to other area storefronts.
Cindy and Sandi pointed out that the windows aren't part of the scope for this project, which is only awnings and signage. The storefront glass and doors in the drawings provided reflect current conditions.
Junaid moved approval, Irshad seconded. APPROVED 5-0
- V. Introduction of RPBA maintenance director
Cindy introduced Brandon Harding, maintenance director at RPBA. He oversees maintenance contractors including landscaping, snow, and trash pickup.

Brandon greeted the commissioners and shared his contact information. He visits SSA43 several times a week to check on things, usually around lunchtime. Cindy will send around email and phone contact info to commissioners to report maintenance issues.

Pete asked about reporting issues with lighting, banners, and decorations.
Brandon said these issues can be reported to him as well. Pete identified a ripped light pole banner on Western across from Wheels of Chicago and asked about timeline for replacing it.

Service Provider: Rogers Park Business Alliance 1448 W. Morse Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
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Brandon said that we'll report the broken one for removal, but that we typically don't replace one at a time – the usual practice is to wait until there are a few that need to be replaced and doing them all at once.

Pete also asked about the status of the mandala decorations.

Sandi said that they were taken down this week and are being stored in a storage locker at Devon and Ridge until it's time to put them back up. We're paying \$52 a month for the storage locker. The thinking was to take them down to avoid damage from the winter weather. Staff is proposing to put them back up in May and leave them up until October. The vendor will be using new mounting hardware this time which should be more durable.

Pete asked for clarification regarding the locations for installation.

Sandi said that there are 26 mandalas and they can be spread out evenly around the district.

Irshad asked about trash.

Brandon said that fly dumping is an issue in all the SSA's but they've been prioritizing timely trash removal in and around the bins because of the rat complaints.

Cindy added that the City is looking into putting lava rocks in the tree pits to make it harder for rats to nest there, and reminded the group to keep calling 311 for rat issues so they'll come out and place bait.

Sandi also shared that one of the planters by the Dollar Tree was vandalized – somebody stole all the plants out of it. We're aware of this and have opted to leave it alone until Brightview comes out to replant all the planters for spring.

Junaid mentioned that there's a camera nearby and suggested that this be reported to the police.

VI. Devon Tour Company

Ald. Silverstein shared that she had invited representatives from a local group that does walking tours and had expressed an interest in offering tours on Devon, but they weren't able to make it. The business has been doing walking tours of different Chicago neighborhoods for some time and is especially interested in promoting the City's ethnic and immigrant neighborhoods and their history.

VII. New business

Commissioners asked about the rule change necessitating a change of meeting venues.

Karen responded that this new rule doesn't just apply to SSA43 but all 50+ SSAs in the city. They've also codified a rule that SSA's can no longer meet at people's homes.

Sandi added that we're working to secure a new permanent location for future meetings, probably either Republic Bank or Devon Bank.

Maura asked if we have a CRM, since West Ridge said they're currently in the process of getting one.

Cindy said that we do have a CRM – SSA43 has its own account on MemberZone, which is the same one RPBA uses. The CRM also powers the directory listings on the On Devon website.

VIII. Adjournment

Next meeting: March 16, 2020