

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting
Monday, April 20, 2020; 2:30pm
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404104228>
Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 meeting ID 814 0410 4228



MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri, Rebeca Vasquez, Mohammed Junaid, Avi Bereliani, Maura Levitt, Jay Shewakramani

Commissioners Absent: Pete Valavanis

Staff Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, Rogers Park Business Alliance

Others Present: Ald. Debra Silverstein; Larissa Tyler, West Ridge Chamber;

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:34

II. Public Comment

No public comment

III. Approval of minutes from 4/20/2020

Sanhita moved approval; Rebeca seconded. (APPROVED 6-0)

IV. Updates & old business

a. First responder food

Cindy and Larissa provided an update on the first responder food orders. Of the \$25,000 authorized for this, we've spent almost \$20,000. So far we've had 15 restaurants participate, some more than once. We reached out to 43 restaurants and about 20 didn't respond to a call or email (a few declined).

Irshad asked that commissioners be provided the list of who hasn't responded yet so commissioners can follow up with them. Larissa agreed.

Irshad moved to increase the spending authorization to \$35,000. Jay seconded. (APPROVED 6-0)

b. Devon's Got Talent updates

Cindy shared that staff has continued to meet with Big Buzz for monthly planning check-in calls on this; still proceeding with the 11/1 event date. We have a contract in place for the event which may limit our ability to cancel it entirely. We're not going to be approaching businesses about sponsorship because we know everyone is experiencing hardship. Big Buzz is starting to contact artists and performers about participating in the event.

c. Covid19 rebates

Cindy shared an update on the first round of Covid19 rebates - there were 4 eligible applicants from Devon across both programs (Safety/Sanitation and Digital Marketing/Ecommerce), receiving a total of \$2200 in rebates.

Jay estimated that only about 25% of Devon businesses are currently open for curbside, carryout, and delivery, making rebates not a great fit.

Avi agreed, suggesting pursuing bulk purchasing of PPE and cleaning supplies to distribute to those that are open. Gloves and masks are currently available at Restaurant Depot and webstaurant. Suggested ordering enough to distribute gloves and masks to 50 businesses.

Sanhita moved approval of up to \$3000 to fund bulk orders of masks and gloves for businesses.

Avi seconded.

(APPROVED 6-0)

d. Landscaping

Cindy reported that Brightview will be out next week to do new plantings. We're aware that some of the tulips were stolen from planters recently and elected not to replace them since the plants were about to be redone so soon.

e. Cameras

Sandi reported that the City contacted us to provide an update on camera installation, which was approved last year but we've been waiting on an invoice from the City. The most recent update was that an invoice would be coming soon, but it's looking now like they're waiting on one more department to review and sign off on it. The 3 cameras will be located at Leavitt, Campbell, and Kedzie facing east.

V. Preliminary 2021 budget discussion

Cindy shared that the City's timeline for SSA's requires us to share a first draft budget for 2021 in June. Staff has started a draft that mostly replicates 2020 for now, but we've done so knowing that property tax collections for this year and next are likely to be negatively impacted by the pandemic. Asked commissioners to share items they'd like to add or cut for budget planning. There most likely will be a line item for COVID19 recovery projects, like rebates, bulk purchasing, and other initiatives.

Irshad and several other commissioners suggested reducing sidewalk cleaning services from the current 6 days a week down to 3 or 4, focusing on weekends when the streets are more crowded. Also asked about whether we could scale back this year while shops

are closed. Cindy cautioned against drastic cuts given problems we're seeing in other business districts with litter, particularly discarded gloves and masks, even though many businesses are closed. Other areas have asked about expanding rather than reducing litter cleanup. Furthermore, we currently have a contract with Cleanstreet that we may not be able to easily cancel or modify for 2020.

Sanhita moved to reduce litter collection to 3 days/week if allowed. Maura seconded. APPROVED 6-0.

Cindy asked commissioners about holiday decorations; lights will have been up long enough that more maintenance may be needed in 2021, and a decision will be needed on what to do about the mandalas. Our vendor plans to replace mounting hardware next time they're put back up which should stop them from falling down in high winds. This will mean a higher cost to put them back up - \$5,000. There was some discussion at a previous meeting about putting them out for summer instead of or in addition to the holidays. Should they be put back up now?

Jay indicated that he would support putting them back up now but would want some sort of guarantee or warranty against them falling down again, and would also be interested in the possibility of leaving them up year round.

Avi also wanted to know more about the expected lifespan of the mandala decorations.

Cindy will reach out to the vendor for answers to these questions. Avi made a motion to approve installation contingent on warranty/expected lifespan.

Avi moved, Rebeca seconded. (APPROVED 6-0)

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:10

VII. Next meeting: Monday, 6/15/2020; 2:30pm