

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2:30pm
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404104228>
Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 meeting ID 814 0410 4228



MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Rebeca Vasquez, Maura Levitt, Mohammed Junaid,
Irshad Khan, Jay Shewakramani

Others present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price - RPBA, Ald. Debra Silverstein,
Steve Golyzniak - Tovar Snow

I. Call to Order

Meeting was officially called to order at 2:52pm

II. Public comment

There was no public comment

III. Approval of minutes from the 7/24/2020 meeting

Irshad moved approval, Jay seconded.

Approved.

IV. Old Business

a. Snow update

Cindy introduced Steve from our snow vendor, Tovar. Commissioners asked at the last meeting to have him join us this month to meet commissioners and take feedback on how it went last season.

Steve introduced himself - last year was our first year using Tovar and they're starting to plan and prepare for the 2020-2021 snow season, including covid safety and training. Irshad asked about some of the issues that came up last season, namely delays and gaps on sidewalk snow removal, particularly in front of vacant properties and storefronts. Steve admitted that there were initially some issues with lingering ice, particularly on the south side of the street facing North - after the first storm last year they applied more salt on the problem spots. They also were not aware of the usual practice of sending Brandon snowfall photos when they go out for service, which they've since started doing.

Irshad asked about the kind of salt being used.

Steve said it's a standard calcium chloride ice melt product typically used on sidewalks, roads, and parking lots.

Cindy added that there were some complaints last year about incomplete or insufficient sidewalk snow clearance near vacant properties and asked Steve to address this. Irshad agreed.

Steve said that this may have been a result of crews initially focusing on clearing sidewalks in front of stores that are open, especially if snow is still falling, but they'll make sure this is communicated to crews for the upcoming season.

Irshad asked about the minimum snowfall for service and where crews start and end work.

Steve said that the minimum in our contract is 2" and crews spread out along Devon rather than always following the same path. For a typical snow event of 2 or 3 inches they usually have teams of 8-10 people; larger teams are called in when heavier snowfalls are expected.

Cindy asked about the timing of the contract period - we ran into issues last year because the first big snowfall was Halloween but the snow contracts didn't start until November 15.

Steve said that November 15 is still the start date of the contract period but they can come if needed beforehand and will ask approval before doing so.

b. Covid response / PPE distribution recap

Jay shared that even though we distributed 150 boxes of supplies to businesses there were still some that were missed. Next time we need to give the delivery folks more guidance like a map and/or list of businesses for dropoffs. Vehicle capacity and prep time also made things challenging. Sanhita and several restaurants didn't get anything in this most recent round.

Irshad asked about how long the stuff is expected to last for each business.

Junaid reported that he's already out of masks - they're giving them out to customers who come in without them.

Jay agreed - says he hands out between 10 and 20 masks a day on weekends when customers come in without them.

Irshad asked about doing another round and what the timeline would be.

Maura asked about the budget.

Cindy and Sandi reported that we don't have updated financials as to how much we've spent to date on this because our CPA has been out sick. We could do approval up to a certain amount similar to last time if commissioners want to add to it.

Commissioners agreed to hold off for now and approve another round at the next meeting for distribution in October.

Cindy agreed and will put this on the next meeting's agenda. Will also prepare a directory list from memberzone to assist with deliveries and plan for more prep time.

c. Sidewalk cleaning & landscaping update

Cindy shared that Antwan from Cleanstreet wasn't able to join the meeting today but she and Brandon have been in contact with them about the need for additional attention to the in-ground landscape areas and tree pits which they'll be working on this week. We wanted to ask if commissioners wanted to pursue power washing this year -

we've gotten a few complaints about spit stains on sidewalks, especially around the corner seating areas.

Irshad asked what the scope of work was for powerwashing last year.

Sandi reported that there were whole blocks between Bell and California, going up to the alleys on both sides, a total of 12 crosswalks. The cost last time was \$31,000 and included a drain maintainer.

Commissioners asked staff to get quotes on having power washing done after Labor Day.

d. Camera update

Sandi reported that we've gotten and paid the invoice for the 3 cameras to be installed at Kedzie, Campbell, and Leavitt, and are waiting on the city to schedule installation. Will follow up with them this afternoon.

V. New Business

a. Mural installation

Jay reported that he spoke with three different artists and got some preliminary quotes, sketches and location ideas that were shared via email. Cindy also shared these via screen share. Thomas Melvin included quotes for a few walls, Statik didn't.

Irshad suggested that he and Jay scout out specific wall locations to narrow things down so we can request quotes and designs.

Jay asked about spending authorization and suggested approval of an up-to amount of up to \$25k, which could be either one big mural or a series of smaller ones. Asked how much the last mural was.

Sandi reported that the last mural was invoiced at \$5,000

Jay also suggested a few additional artists to contact, including Sick Fisher and Eulojio Ortega.

b. Repair/replace lights

Sandi shared that after the storms last week she noticed that a lot of the decorative lights weren't working so she reached out to Scott at Illuminight. He said that they've been up for 3-4 years already and may be needing repair or replacement which isn't covered by the previous contract. We're waiting on an estimate from him about replacement but don't have it yet.

Also on an unrelated note, Mohammed Bozai has elected not to move forward with his application for the vacant commissioner seat, so we have an open seat.

Junaid suggested that the gentleman at Sign America on Devon was interested in joining. Cindy can reach out to him.

Irshad said it would be nice to get someone from the eastern side of the district if possible since we don't have any commissioners that are over there.

c. Service provider feedback

Cindy reminded commissioners that this was a followup item from last meeting's discussion on whether to stay with RPBA or move to West Ridge Chamber as SSA service provider and asked if commissioners wanted to share any feedback for staff moving forward.

Irshad suggested having commissioners put together a list rather than put people on the spot during a meeting and suggested creating a survey instead.

Cindy agreed and will create a form on google or surveymonkey for commissioners.

Cindy also shared that we got a new BIP request for new windows at Italian Express, but since the application wasn't received until today it wasn't able to be included in this month's agenda and will be on in September.

Jay added that the request was for new windows that are able to be opened which might allow for them to allow more indoor dining capacity.

Junaid asked if he could be eligible for BIP funding for a project like this.

Cindy said yes - anybody that hasn't gotten BIP funding in the last 3 years is eligible, but the maximum rebate under current guidelines is only \$5,000, which doesn't go super far on big projects like this - the quotes submitted on the Italian Express application were \$19,000 and \$22,000. Commissioners have some discretion to do more, particularly at the end of the year.

VI. Adjournment

Junaid moved to adjourn; Maura seconded.

Adjourned at 3:45pm.

Next meeting: Monday, September 21, 2020; 2:30pm, Zoom