



Commission Meeting Minutes

Attending: Wally Andersen, Vice President; Carolina Juarez; RPBA staff; Sandi Price, RPBA Executive Director; Al Goldberg, Treasurer; Nick Koziek, Commissioner; Roberto Arista, Commissioner; Ilesa Duncan, Commissioner.

Absent: Irene

1. Welcome
Meeting began at 2:03 p.m.
2. Community and Public Input
None
3. 2019 Audit was reviewed and approved (Goldberg/ Bermudez). Unanimously approved.
4. Updates were given on what rpba is doing during Covid:
5. As you may have read in our emails, RPBA staff is working full time remotely. When people call our office and choose an extension the call is forwarded to our cell phones so that we can be available to all of our businesses.
6. The entire staff has been at the forefront of all updates coming from the national, state and municipal administration in order to have all the knowledge we need to educate and support our businesses.
7. In addition we have been on almost 1000 (jk, but it seems like it) webinars provided by all types of organizations and entities providing financial resources to the business community.
8. we have created a resource page for business owners in English and Spanish on our website
9. Since this all began all staff has dedicated much of their time to reaching out to over 200 businesses in Rogers Park by phone to check in and make sure they are all being informed well and know that RPBA is accessible for any support they have at their reach.
10. From these calls we have developed a list of business status (open or closed), hours and links available to support the business financially, like gofundme pages and gift cards.
11. An email is sent once per week to all businesses in Rogers Park in english and spanish with covid related updates
12. we launch a video campaign once a day on instagram and facebook with updates and news and tips on covid related updates.
13. The Silverman Group, the PR firm, is also working tirelessly to get media attention to the businesses' current devastating condition as well as to promote those businesses who are still open.
14. While the maintenance crew is not currently working, rest assured, we continue to provide them with regular wages
15. working with the Chicago Farmers Market Collective, Local Producer/Chicago/IL Food Response Group, Illinois Farmers Market Association and Glenwood Sunday Market vendors
16. staff has facilitated the creation of online gift cards
17. staff is providing technical assistance and access to capital guidance to businesses where needed



18. Staff continues to meet regularly via google video to stay on the same page among all this madness
19. the GROW/Progresando entrepreneurial program will continue its classes online since yesterday
20. staff has participated in 49th ward webinars and has assisted with interpretation as needed
21. we are in the process of launching Help Desk Hour. Mon-Fri from 10-11am RPBA staff will be available to answer questions from businesses, from financial assistance to marketing help. Spanish Help Desk hour will also be available.

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Meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TBD