

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

**Members Present:** Pete Valavanis, Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri, Rebeca Vasquez, Mohammed Junaid, Avi Bereliani, Maura Levitt, Jay Shewakramani  
**Staff Present:** Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, Rogers Park Business Alliance  
**Others Present:** Jennifer Gurerro, City Bureau; Ald. Debra Silverstein; Larissa Tyler, West Ridge Chamber; Dante Odoni, The ACT Group

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

Meeting was called to order at 2:34

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**

Jennifer from City Bureau introduced herself - She's here to observe and won't be actively participating.

### **III. Approval of minutes from 4/3/2020**

Pete moved approval; Avi seconded. (Approved 7-0)

### **IV. Update on meals for first responders**

Cindy presented the current schedule of restaurants via screen share.

Larissa shared that there are several repeats due to difficulty getting in contact with restaurant owners since many are closed and asked commissioners for assistance reaching out to get more restaurants to participate. Hoping to add more dates next week. So far we've spent \$5,000 of the \$25,000 that was authorized at the last meeting. St. Francis Hospital has mostly been booked for meals, so hospital deliveries have all been at Swedish Hospital.

Sanhita asked if there was any updates on getting Punjab Sweets scheduled, and shared that Subway on Devon will be reopening this week and the owners would like to participate.

Pete asked if anyone had contacted Usmania Chinese.

Larissa shared that she hadn't had a response from them. Irshad shared that the owner passed away recently from Covid.

Larissa asked for an updated list of SSA43 restaurants, which Cindy agreed to provide, along with contact information for commissioners willing to assist in reaching out to restaurants where we know there's a language barrier.

Sandi shared information about Off Their Plate, which is still recruiting restaurants to order from for hospital meals in Chicago.

Avi and Mohammed shared that they've applied to Off Their Plate but haven't heard back yet.

#### **V. Approval of 2019 Audit Report**

Cindy shared the audit report via screen share; copies were also emailed to commissioners this morning when we received them from the auditors.

Dante the auditor shared that there weren't any issues or adjustments and that this year's audit is fairly similar to last year's.

Sandi added that the main items in the findings are notes that the SSA was involved in "loan activity" due to sharing joint expenses with other SSA's, and that we went over in a few budget categories but didn't exceed budget overall. There was a shortfall in expected property tax revenue vs what was actually received, but even then we didn't overspend because of carryover.

Irshad asked if we need to vote on this today.

Sandi shared that approved audit reports have to be submitted to the City by 5/15, so commissioners do need to vote to approve it before the deadline.

Pete moved approval, Maura seconded.

Approved - 5-0-3

(Pete, Avi, Maura, Rebeca, and Sanhita voting yes;

Jay, Irshad, and Mohammed abstaining. )

#### **VI. Approval of Emergency Rebate Programs**

Cindy presented a recap on the proposed emergency rebate programs, sharing the program guidelines via screen share. The proposal is for 2 separate rebate programs; SSA businesses can apply for and receive either or both. Similar to BIP, they're structured as a 50% rebate on eligible expenses up to a max of \$400 each. One covers expenses for online marketing (social media and web ads, websites, e-commerce, delivery platforms, etc.) and the other is for health and sanitation expenses (janitorial supplies, hand sanitizer, gloves, masks, takeout packaging,

etc. ). The City has already reviewed and approved these as to form, and Lakeview SSA27 is already doing it; they did direct us to impose a submission deadline in case demand outstrips available funding, in which case funds have to be awarded by lottery.

Rebecca asked to extend the deadline past May 1 to allow for more outreach.

Irshad and Mohammed said that \$400 isn't much and expressed an interest in doing more, or potentially having the SSA buy sanitation supplies and PPE in bulk for distribution to SSA businesses.

Sanhita pointed out that the real need is for help with rent and payroll rather than these minor things.

Cindy agreed, but shared that those larger expenses aren't within the budget of the SSA to take on in a way that would be able to be administered fairly across the number of businesses in the SSA. These rebates are a starting point; if nobody applies then we haven't spent any money.

Avi and Maura agreed.

Irshad proposed that the program guidelines be amended to allow for the \$400 maximum be a 100% rebate for SSA43 businesses rather than 50%.

Pete moved approval as amended.

Approved 8-0-0

(Pete, Jay, Maura, Avi, Sanhita, Rebecca and Mohammed voting yes)

## **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:40

**Next meeting:** Monday, 5/11/2020; 2:30pm