



MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri, Rebeca Vasquez,

Avi Bereliani, Maura Levitt, Jay Shewakramani,
Mohammed Junaid

Commissioners Absent: Pete Valavanis

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

Others Present: Ald. Debra Silverstein, Shereen Manimala

I. Call to Order

meeting called to order at 2:35pm

II. Public Input

Shereen Manimala introduced herself - she's a professional event producer and is interested in organizing a black/brown unity rally in the Devon area similar to one held recently in Pilsen. Would be interested in collaborating with SSA43 on this but willing to wait a while until the covid19 crisis dies down and the city moves up to a new reopening phase.

III. Approval of minutes from the 6/3/2020 meeting

Jay moved approval; Maura seconded
APPROVED

IV. Old Business

a. First Responder Food Update

Cindy reminded commissioners that funding was approved for up to \$35,000 at last meeting. We don't have an updated accounting as to how much of that has been spent since last time, but have gotten word that the fire stations want to go back to cooking their own meals and the hospitals are fully booked on food deliveries, so now may be a good time to consider putting the program on hold.

Rebeca and Irshad agreed.

Irshad added that Irv from the West Ridge Chamber also suggested that the SSA consider compensating Larissa Tyler \$1,500-2,000 for her time spent organizing the logistics of the food delivery program, as it resulted in her doing more work after hours. Sandi said that the original agreement was that WRCC would do the work and the SSA would pay,

because the West Ridge Chamber didn't have funding available to contribute financially to the effort.

Junaid admitted to not being clear on the specifics of the original agreement, but agreed that if she's been doing additional work outside of regular hours on the project she should be compensated.

Jay asked if the payment was to be made directly to Larissa as an individual or to the West Ridge Chamber.

Avi moved to approve a \$1,000 payment to Larissa directly for her work on the first responder food project and to suspend the program after completion of any deliveries that have already been scheduled.

Jay seconded.

APPROVED

Cindy will reach out to Larissa to request a W9 form and let her know that the program is on hold.

b. Bulk PPE

Cindy reminded commissioners that at the last meeting they voted to authorize up to \$7,000 in funding for additional bulk PPE purchases for businesses and asked if there was any interest in or need for more. Boxes have been distributed to over 140 businesses along Devon so far.

Junaid thanked Avi and Jay for organizing the PPE purchasing and distribution.

Jay asked if commissioners might consider approving payment for the folks that delivered supplies to businesses.

Sandi asked how much, and said we'd need an invoice from whoever did it.

Jay said he had originally offered \$150 for the first day of deliveries, then \$200 for the second day, but realized later that he did way more places that day and should get more. Suggested \$600 total for the 4 days of work.

Avi agreed.

Sandi suggested \$595 so we don't need to request a W9 form.



Maura moved to approve up to \$595 for delivery services.
Avi seconded.

APPROVED.

c. Boardup Funding

Cindy shared that the jewelry store didn't submit an invoice for the damaged window and appears to have found funding elsewhere. Of the two that submitted invoices for preventative boardups, which were approved for 25% reimbursement at the last meeting, All American Medical supply has been paid \$750, and a check request submitted for Kol Tuv at \$1,475. They were really upset by this and wanted to ask for more due to the lack of clarity that reimbursements were not being made at 100%. Proposed increasing the reimbursement here given the miscommunication and extraordinary expense of the invoice in question.

Irshad was against providing additional reimbursement beyond the 25% approved at the last meeting.

Sandi added that although Kol Tuv had received BIP funding in the past for the sign, it was more than 3 years ago so they're eligible for BIP funding now. Asked if anybody had a motion.

Avi initially suggested reimbursing up to 50%, but was concerned that he'd heard she had sought bids from other contractors offering more affordable board-up quotes and withdrew support for additional reimbursement.

Jay moved to end discussion on this item.
APPROVED.

d. Mandala Decorations

Cindy and Sandi provided background info on the mandala decorations that were purchased for the light poles and installed last year over the holidays. There are 26 of them. They were taken down early because several fell down during the winter due to high winds. The vendor, Illuminight said it would be \$5000 to put them back up with new mounting hardware that should be more wind resistant. Putting them up and taking them down in the future will cost less (more like \$3200) because this figure includes the purchase of the new hardware. Prices are comparable to what we spend on banners, which are about \$100 each for installation. They're currently in storage, which is \$52 a month.

At the time they were purchased, there was consensus around having them up in the warmer months as well, but Scott warned that resulting sun damage would reduce their usable life span.

Jay opposed spending money to put them up and take them down annually. Sanhita expressed an interest in trying to resell them.

Irshad requested that staff ask for a break on the quote for putting them back up. While he agrees that there's no point to just keeping them in storage indefinitely but would like to see some sort of guarantee against them falling down.

Sandi asked if there was a range as to how much commissioners would be willing to pay? She will contact Scott to inquire about renegotiating the price.

V. New Business

a. Expanded Outdoor Dining

Cindy shared some updates from the City regarding the new expanded dining program and changes to sidewalk cafe procedures for 2020. The expanded dining program allows for a chamber, SSA, or a group of 3 or more restaurants on the same block to request closure of a portion of the street to allow for socially-distanced outdoor seating during weekends. There's no cost to apply but applicants must submit a site plan, security / emergency plan and certificates of insurance and licenses from each participating restaurant. Because there's no cost to the SSA to do so, we've already submitted one for partial closure of Campbell to allow additional space for Sabri Nihari. Does anyone know of other restaurants that want to also pursue this option?

Irshad suggested Maplewood, for Bundoo Khan and others, as well as Talman for Uru Swati.

Ald. Silverstein pointed out that Maplewood may be difficult on Fridays due to parking needs at the nearby mosque.

Cindy shared that the program allows for street closures from Friday to Sunday, but just because Friday is allowed doesn't mean they have to do it all three days. Maybe they just do Saturday and Sunday. If they have insurance certificates and are willing to take on the cost of renting barricades and extra tables there's no cost to us to apply. Cindy will put together an info sheet to share with commissioners and area restaurants.

b. Unity Rally

Cindy asked if commissioners have any thoughts regarding Shereen's proposal of putting together a unity rally on or near Devon.



Commissioners generally agreed that it's a cool idea, but would need to see a more concrete proposal in order to make any decisions. Suggested Shereen prepare something for the July meeting.

Cindy shared an update on landscape planters; Brightview came out to plant summer plants last week, but we were notified on Friday that about a dozen planters had already been vandalized - somebody came and stole all the plants. We're awaiting a quote on replanting them.

Sandi added that we had similar issues with the spring plantings; the seasonal arrangements included tulips in the center, and many went missing in the leadup to Mother's Day.

Commissioners suggested that spring plantings be omitted or postponed till after Mother's Day for next year.

VI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm

Next meeting: Monday July 13, 2020; 2:30pm, Zoom