

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2021 2:30 pm
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341468102>
Dial in: +1 312 626 6799 meeting ID: 873 4146 8102



MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Pete Valavanis, Maura Levit, Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri
Rebeca Vasquez, Jay Shewakramani, Avi Bereliani,
Commissioners Absent: Mohammed Junaid
Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price - RPBA
Ald. Debra Silverstein - 50th Ward Alderman
Ellen Doppelt - Jewish Neighborhood Development Council
Halle Quezada & Sara Stigberg -
West Ridge Community Response Team

1. Meeting called to order at 2:38 pm

Pursuant to the applicable law, this meeting was held on zoom and was recorded due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Public Comment

[Ellen Doppelt](#) introduced herself and spoke in favor of adopting a pigeon abatement program

Halle Quezada and Sara Stigberg spoke in favor of the donation program and partnership with the West Ridge Community Response Team.

3. Approval of minutes from May 2021

Pete moved approval, Rebeca seconded.
Approved unanimously.

4. WRCRT Proposal

Cindy shared the written proposal via screenshare and posted a google docs link in the chat. The request is for \$30,000 in funding to purchase frequently requested items from businesses within the SSA to donate to the love fridge at Indo American Center and fulfill WRCRT requests.

Pete moved approval of \$10,000.

Rebeca asked to make a different motion; Pete withdrew his motion.

Rebeca moved to approve \$5,000 to be used to purchase the top 3 most frequently requested items from businesses on Devon. These items will be given to the WRCRT for distribution.

Maura seconded.

Approved (4 yes - 1 no - 2 abstain)

5. Lighting replacement

Cindy presented the quotes for replacement of the decorative lighting system - it will either be \$38,000 or \$43,000 depending on whether tariffs apply. There is funding for this project in the FY21 budget. Commissioners asked at the last meeting about alternative designs, and our vendor is looking into options. Due to increased lead time and supply chain issues, staff recommends moving forward with replacement at this time with the option to add additional lighting features later.

Pete moved approval. Jay Seconded.

APPROVED unanimously..

6. Murals

Cindy is still waiting on draft designs from Statik - she spoke with him today and he's hoping to send design options by the end of the week. Cindy will share via email.

7. Pigeon Abatement

Cindy provided a summary of quotes and recommendations from area exterminators and asked commissioners to decide whether to provide 100% of the cost for pigeon removal or establish a rebate program for pigeon abatement similar to BIP.

Pete favors the 100% option for targeted buildings where it's a problem, and spoke about his experience working with one of the exterminators to test out a bait program at his buildings, which seems to be working so far.

Pete moved to approve \$5,000 to fund pigeon removal efforts at Devon and Richmond.

Irshad suggested expanding it to \$25,000 in order to fund pigeon removal at 5 buildings. Jay has offered to negotiate the cost of the abatement with the company since we are hoping to do several locations.

Pete amended his motion - \$25,000 to fund at least 5 buildings.

Irshad seconded.

Approved (6 yes - 0 no - 1 abstaining)

8. Social media update

Cindy shared that the *Only On Devon* video series has finished filming - the last one was at the ribbon cutting and grand opening at Patel Bros. Videos will

continue to be released over the next few weeks. We'll be sending around performance reports to commissioners via email.

9. Landscaping update

Cindy walked the district with a rep from our landscaping vendor last week to identify sites for additional planter pots - we're looking to add 20 of them, mostly along Western and the eastern portion of Devon that wasn't included in streetscape. They're also going to give us a proposal to add additional perennials and shrubbery to the 27 in-ground planter beds based on feedback from commissioners at the last meeting.

10. Events

Cindy kept this on the agenda as a followup from last month's discussion; commissioners were asked to send ideas and suggestions for events via email for discussion at this meeting. The only two ideas received were 1.) a smaller Devon's Got Talent to be held outdoors in one of the parking lots and 2.) outdoor movie nights.

Pete is skeptical about the Devon's Got Talent event.

Irshad agrees that we should do an event.

Cindy said that an outdoor movie night is going to be easier to plan on short notice since we're already several weeks into summer. RPBA has done them before, so there's a playbook for it and it's affordable.

Avi suggested finding a way to incorporate restaurants and recommended avoiding September dates due to potential conflicts with numerous religious holidays.

Sandi suggested the weekend of 9/11-12, which doesn't overlap with any of the religious observances. We can reach out to Republic Bank about using the parking lot. We will need to pick a movie and secure the rights.

Pete is interested in doing a Bollywood film.

Avi has concerns about content - wants to ensure it's accessible for religious families and suggested having 2 movies - a Bollywood feature on Saturday night and something more family friendly on Sunday.

11. 2022 budget update

Cindy provided background on the budget prep timeline for 2022 - we're awaiting budget notes from the City to finalize the draft 2022 budget, which will be on the agenda for approval at next month's meeting.

12. BIP applications

a. Ali Nihari

Cindy presented the application via screenshare, including drawings and quotes. Because the quotes all exceed \$10,000, the rebate will be at the \$5,000 max.

Pete moved approval, Maura seconded.

APPROVED unanimously.

b. Deck the Neck

Cindy presented the application via screenshare. Based on the submitted quotes, the rebate amount will be under \$3,000.

Pete moved approval, Avi seconded.

APPROVED unanimously.

c. All American Medical Supply

Cindy presented the application and drawings via screenshare. Because the quotes exceed \$10,000, the rebate will be at the \$5,000 max.

Pete moved approval, Maura seconded.

APPROVED. APPROVED unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Pete moved to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm