

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting  
Monday, Sept 13, 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: Maura Levit, Mohammed Junaid, Pete Valavanis,  
Sanhita Agnihotri, Irshad Khan  
Commissioners Absent: Rebeca Vasquez, Avi Bereliani, Jayesh Shewakramani  
Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price - RPBA  
Carla - 50th Ward office  
Ellen Doppelt - Jewish Neighborhood Development Council

### **1. Meeting called to order at 2:35 pm**

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

### **2. Public Comment**

Ellen Doppelt shared feedback from area businesses on pigeon abatement efforts. They are happy with the results so far.

### **3. Approval of minutes from July 2021**

Sanhita moved approval of the minutes from the July meeting, Pete seconded. Approved unanimously.

### **4. New Meeting Location**

Cindy shared that although we're still able to meet remotely this month, we do need to pick a new meeting venue when in-person meetings are able to fully resume. Have reached out to Republic Bank and Croatian Cultural Center but open to other suggestions as long as space is accessible.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a. Pigeon update**

Cindy shared that work has been completed or is ongoing at the first three buildings being treated, and there's been a noticeable improvement at Devon and Richmond, but after talking with the exterminator, we have more to do in terms of making sure our street cleaning team is sweeping up food people are leaving out, and communicating with residents that feeding pigeons is unacceptable.

Sanhita asked about enforcement of city penalties for feeding pigeons.

Cindy says it's not a high priority for the police, and the SSA isn't able to issue tickets. For cases where residents are feeding birds on balconies and rooftops, building owners and property managers might want to consider adding language to their leases about penalties for littering and feeding animals.

Carla shared that there are city signs about this on posts throughout the district, and will look into whether the City can add more.

Cindy agreed that this might be helpful but suggested adding signage in additional languages may be needed. Maybe something similar to the yard signs about picking up dog waste. Once we get the official verbiage from the City we can work on designing signs to print and distribute for people to put in windows. Carla will find out what verbiage we can use.

**b. Movie nights recap**

Cindy shared updates on the two outdoor movie nights held over the weekend - turnout was strong both days despite limited promotion, and there was a lot of interest in doing it again, preferably with Bollywood films if possible. Irshad will reach out to his contacts to see if we can get a license to show any of the Bollywood films.

**c. Social Media Contract**

This item was tabled at the last meeting because folks wanted to wait until more commissioners could be present. Cindy shared social media performance metrics and proposed scope of work options via screenshare.

Pete moved approval of the \$3,000/mo scope of work.

Junaid suggested getting an additional quote from the vendor he's currently using (AdMark) since they're located on Devon.

Cindy agrees and will reach out to them for a quote for the same scope of work. In the meantime, do we want to move forward with a vote for an up-to amount? Junaid will share his contact information.

Pete moved approval of up to \$3,000 a month for the agreed upon scope, vendor TBD. Maura seconded. APPROVED.

**6. New Business**

**a. BIP applications**

Cindy included this as a placeholder as there was a chance that the shoe store at Devon and Western was going to submit this month for new signage, but they're still waiting on quotes.

**b. Tree Pit maintenance**

Cindy presented a proposal for tree pit maintenance on side streets between Devon and alley openings. We did this last year for tree pits on Devon in response to complaints about weeds and rat activity in tree pits. It seems to have worked on the main street, but we've continued to get complaints from businesses on the side streets about tree pits, so we reached out to CDOT about doing the additional tree pit maintenance there too and they sent us the proposal. The scope of work includes installation of lava rock mulch and enlargement of tree pit openings where necessary due to tree growth. Total cost is \$20,500.

Irshad asked about the possibility of getting quotes from additional landscape companies. Cindy said that the trees and tree pits here are part of the streetscape, so they're City property and have to be done through CDOT.

Pete moved approval, Sanhita seconded.  
APPROVED.

**7. Old Business**

Pete asked about the timeline for replacement of the decorative lighting. Cindy responded that our vendor hasn't been able to source the materials due to supplies being on backorder and shipping delays from China. He's still trying to identify alternative sourcing, but it may take longer.

Pete also asked about the mapping tool that was created by PLACE consulting.

Cindy has the link, but it isn't working - we're reaching out to Tony to try and restore access.

Pete shared an idea for a project next year featuring decorated tuktuks, similar to the cows on parade exhibit that was done downtown a while back. Could be an opportunity to bring more visitors to Devon. Cindy will reach out to event companies to see about getting proposals to do something like this next year or in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm