

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting
Monday, June 13, 2022 2:30pm
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87341468102>
call-in: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 87341468102



MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Irshad Khan, [Maura Levit](#), Mohammed Rameez, Sanhita Agnihotri,
Pete Valavanis

Others Present: Sandi Price & Cindy Plante, RPBA;
50th Ward Ald. Debra Silverstein
Ellen Doppelt - JNDC

I. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 2:43

II. Public comment

There was no public comment

III. Approval of the minutes from last meeting

Pete moved approval, Maura seconded.
APPROVED.

IV. Mandala Arts Events Sponsorship Request

Cindy shared that Pranita from Mandala Arts wasn't able to make it to today's meeting, so this item will be moved to the July meeting agenda.

V. BIP Application for Jewelry & Watch Repair

Cindy presented the application via screenshare, including renderings of the proposed lit sign.

Rameez is abstaining because he's one of the contractors that bid on the project and prepared the drawings.

Ald. Silverstein would like to see less extraneous signage on the windows.

Other commissioners also expressed some concern that there was still too much on the proposed sign.

Cindy shared a photo of the current sign, which has even more lettering - the proposed sign does represent an improvement, and the applicant is looking to make improvements to doors and windows as well.

Pete moved approval, Maura seconded.

Approved. 4-0 with Rameez abstaining.

VI. TukTuk Updates

Cindy shared updates on the TukTuk art project - we currently have 6 businesses confirmed to participate, two on the fence, and two we haven't heard back from. There will be 10 tuk tuks and up to now we've been prioritizing corner locations.

Rameez and Pete are interested in hosting tuk tuks, and Rameez will also reach out to the owner of Karachi Chat house.

Irshad said he spoke to Ali at Par Birdie and he does want to participate.

Cindy will send around the signup form again. We'll also set up a whatsapp group for confirmed participants.

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VII. Draft budget for 2023

Cindy shared the draft 2023 budget summary via screenshare. The current draft reduces the total levy by about \$10,000. Amounts are based on contract quotes for next year and YTD expenses.

Pete said if we have money in the bank, we should pull more from carryover to further reduce the levy.

Irshad agrees but would also like to see more cleanup and sidewalk power washing in the district. Pete agrees - is continually frustrated that the current litter pickup contractor hasn't been cleaning around the outsides of trash can liners.

Cindy will relay this concern to the contractor again. Our current contract includes sidewalk power washing 3x a year - we can ask them to bump up the frequency. We've also asked them to restructure the days to prioritize sending crews out on the Tuesday after long weekends based on the complaints we got the week after Memorial Day.

They've been specifically asked to have folks out the Tuesday after Juneteenth, July 4, and Labor Day.

Ald. Silverstein agrees that this is needed - her office got tons of complaints about litter and overflowing trash cans after the holiday weekend.

Pete and Ald. Silverstein asked about the status of getting damaged streetscape benches replaced.

Cindy has been in contact with CDOT about this - they were waiting to finalize a contract and pricing with their vendor but they've been made aware of the benches needing replacement. Cindy will send another followup email and copy Ald. Silverstein at the conclusion of this meeting.

Rameez shared that his top concern is marketing to get customers into businesses. He would like the SSA to do a community directory or coupon book to promote businesses in the neighborhood.

Sandi said that the challenge with this has been getting businesses to sign up to participate and then share their information, plus we're sensitive to the imposition of asking businesses to give discounts.

Cindy added that the draft 2023 budget does include increased funding for social media advertising and management now that we're working with AdMark - we've seen a lot of growth in followers and engagement across all the OnDevon social channels.

Rameez suggested working with Admark to do this - maybe having a website-based directory or promotions page. He'd also like to see more street festivals where the street is closed.

Sandi said that street closures on Devon have been limited in the past but side streets are an option - West Ridge Chamber's Dance Dine Devon event coming up in a few weeks is one example.

Cindy added that we can also do programming in parking lots like the movie nights at Devon Bank.

Irshad asked about camera rebates.

Sandi said that she had heard OEMC already had plans to add more cameras to the district without the SSA needing to offer additional funding and asked what streets he'd like to see cameras on. Irshad will follow up with the police after the meeting.

Cindy added that the City's new camera rebate program is open to both businesses and residences - you can seek reimbursement from the city for installing outdoor cameras.

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VIII. Adjournment

Pete moved to adjourn. Maura 2nded.
Cindy reminded commissioners of the next scheduled meeting on July 11.
Adjourned at 3:17pm

Next Meeting: July 11, 2022, 2:30 pm