

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting
Monday, November 21, 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 Junaid, Sanhita Agnihotri,
Pete Valavanis, Jay Shewakramani, Mohammad Rameez,
Avi Bereliani

Others Present: Sandi Price & Cindy Plante, RPBA;
Debra Silverstein - 50th Ward Alderman.
Ivan Mikan - mural artist

I. **Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:44pm

II. **Public comment**

There was no public comment

III. **Approval of September meeting minutes**

Pete moved approval, Sanhita seconded.
APPROVED unanimously.

IV. **Mural Funding Request from Croatian Cultural Center**

Cindy introduced Ivan, the artist working with Croatian Cultural Center for a mural on the side of the building.

Ivan is planning a mural on the western end of the building's frontage on Devon, 52 ft wide and 13 ft high. There isn't a specific design yet but he's planning on a photo realistic depiction of the coastal city of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Cindy screenshared some of the inspiration images Ivan had shared previously.

Pete asked for clarification on placement of the mural on the building.

Ivan is planning to do it on the side of the building that faces Devon, at the western end of the wall (the part that doesn't have columns), which is 52 ft wide. Could potentially add in the other segments in the future if people like the art.

Cindy screenshared a view of the building on google maps.

Rameez asked about the materials to be used.

Ivan is planning on using high-end acrylic paint. This will be his largest mural project to date, but he has done others including some at CPS schools.

Rameez asked about featuring landmarks from other cities.

Pete prefers sticking with Croatian cities since the building is the Croatian Cultural Center.

Cindy asked about the project budget - is the request still for \$14,000?

Service Provider: Rogers Park Business Alliance 1448 W. Morse Ave. Chicago, IL 60626
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Ivan said yes, this is a ballpark figure but should cover his time and materials - he'll need to rent a lift and take time off from his day job.

Pete is interested in including the entire Devon Avenue frontage.
Ivan is open to this but would need to secure approval from the Croatian Cultural Center leadership.

Avi asked how long it would take to paint the mural.
Ivan expects that it will take a few weeks for the 52 ft. mural initially proposed, longer if it includes the entire wall.

Jay asked about the budget. Cindy said that \$14,000 was the original request for the 52 ft. mural.

Jay asked about the artist's past projects and portfolio. Ivan shared some smaller-scale paintings and will email around photos of additional past work.

Junaid asked about the expected durability/lifespan of the mural. Ivan admitted he hasn't done many outdoor murals but is confident that the acrylic paint he's planning to use should hold up well outdoors. Pete added that this side of the street also doesn't get much sun, which should help. Sandi added that RPBA has commissioned lots of outdoor murals over the years from a variety of different artists and they've generally held up pretty well.

Avi would like to see more of the artist's work.

Pete moved to request Ivan submit a sample design and pay costs to commission it, with final approval to be voted on at the next meeting.

Ivan said that the whole wall on Devon is 125 ft. long - each of the segments between the columns is 25 ft. and the western end one is 52 ft.

Jay moved to approve \$14k for the whole wall contingent on design approval. Pete 2nded.
APPROVED.

Ivan asked about the date for the January meeting to get a sample design ready. Cindy checked the calendar - we usually meet on the 3rd Monday of the month but that falls on the MLK holiday, so we'll most likely move it to either January 9 or 23.

Jay asked about timing and weather needs to start painting. Ivan said it would probably be early spring - temperatures need to be in the 50s or 60s at minimum.



V. Sidewalk cleaning RFP

Cindy shared with commissioners that RPBA has issued an RFP for sidewalk cleaning for multiple districts including SSA43. The last time we got bids for this was 2020 and the current vendor Cleanslate was the only proposal. We're hoping to get more responses this time. The RFP is live on the website and submissions are due on 12/16 - if anybody knows of any vendors that might be interested please spread the word.

Sanhita asked about the possibility of adding service, or having the SSA sponsor a bulk pick up drive where we'd place dumpsters throughout the district for businesses and neighbors to get rid of large items like sofas and mattresses. Fly dumping in the alleys has been a big problem for businesses. Cindy is aware of this issue and hears this sort of complaint from businesses regularly, but is concerned about permitting for something like this - the big lesson from the Tuk Tuk project has been that getting a PWU permit takes several months and is expensive - not sure it would be worth it to do this for a single weekend. Sandi encouraged businesses to call 311 to report fly dumping.

VI. TukTuk Project Update

Cindy shared that we've finally gotten the required Public Way Use permits to install the Tuk Tuk statues - we applied in July and it only just got approved. The permits were \$400 for each statue, \$4,000 total for all 10. Now that we've got permits, we need to decide on timing for installation and unveiling. We're looking at spring dates and wanted to ask if it would make sense to plan the unveiling the weekend of Eid, which is April 21-22. The thought was this is a time that lots of people are likely to be out on Devon already to celebrate.

Rameez agrees it might make sense to do it over Eid when Devon is busy.

Irshad and Ald. Silverstein disagreed due to concerns about traffic and parking - the area is extremely busy and crowded during Eid, especially the blocks between Claremont and Bell. They suggested splitting those blocks off to a different day, or picking a different weekend.

Pete and Maura would like to see the Tuk Tuk installed as early as possible in the spring and suggested earlier dates in April.

Cindy thanked commissioners for the feedback and will connect with BigBuzz on timing for 2023.

VII. Annual Meeting

Cindy asked commissioners to save the date for our annual meeting of all the SSAs, which is scheduled for December 8 at 9am. This will take the place of the December meeting. We're back to hosting it in person this year and are still working on confirming the venue. There will be food provided and a presentation on each SSA's accomplishments for the year. It's a great way to meet with folks from other SSAs and get ideas for projects we might want to pursue in the future. Once the location is finalized we'll send out calendar invites.

Cindy also asked commissioners about preferences for rescheduling the January

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meeting due to conflict with the MLK holiday.
Several people said they were traveling during the month of January and preferred the 23rd over the 9th.

VIII. Adjournment

Pete moved to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 3:25pm

Next Meeting: All-SSA annual meeting, Thursday, December 8, 9am, location TBD