



MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Irshad Khan, Maura Levit, Mohammed Junaid,

**Commissioners Absent:** Pete Valavanis, Sanhita Agnihotri

**Others Present:** Cindy Plante, RPBA; Keith, 50th Ward office

**I. Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 2:30pm

**II. Public comment**

There was no public comment

**III. Approval of meeting minutes from August**

Maura moved approval of the minutes; Junaid seconded.

APPROVED 3-0

**IV. 2024 Meeting calendar**

Cindy presented a draft meeting calendar for 2024 - since quorum has been an issue for so much of 2023, Sandi has encouraged us to shift to a quarterly or every-other-month schedule. The six dates proposed here aren't quite every other month due to city deadlines and conflicts between our usual 3rd-Monday meeting time and various public and religious holidays.

Irshad asked why there's no February or March meetings on the calendar.

Cindy picked January 29th to cover both January and February since the 3rd Monday of both those months falls on a holiday (MLK in January and Presidents' Day in February). Since the City requires the annual audit to be submitted May 1, we have to meet in April. July is a similar situation, as DPD usually requires the annual budget meeting to be held during the first two weeks of July.

Maura moved approval of the 2024 meeting calendar, Junaid seconded.

Approved 3-0

**V. NAAN on Devon BIP request**

Cindy presented a BIP funding request from Naan on Devon - they're looking to install a lit channel letter sign and have submitted the required documents, including the application form, drawings, and 2 quotes.

Irshad and Junaid have concerns about the design, particularly the color, font, and logo. Cindy replied that while the commissioners do have some discretion on approving these requests, the applicant has complied with the program requirements for submission and the proposed design isn't inconsistent with our program guidelines or RPBA's storefront design guidelines.

Maura asked about pushing this back to the next meeting.

Cindy reminded commissioners that per the schedule we just adopted, the next meeting



isn't until January 29, 2024, so if he's looking to start on this project, that would force a longer wait. It might be preferable to vote approval conditioned on the applicant updating the design.

Maura moved to approve the application on the condition that the sign design is updated.

Junaid seconded.

Approved 3-0.

## VI. Updates

### a. **2023-24 Holiday lights**

Cindy reported that Choose Chicago reached out to us offering funding to install additional holiday lighting on Devon. RPBA has been in contact with a lighting contractor to put a proposal together for a series of 6' LED lit stars and snowflakes to be installed on rooftops at the Devon and Western intersection, which doesn't have any decorations currently. We're reaching out to property owners regarding roof and power access for installation this week. We don't have an estimated timeline or dates yet as to when it will be installed.

### b. **SpaceShift Chicago Architecture Biennial**

Cindy reported that SpaceShift has gotten their permits from CDOT and started construction on their project at Devon and Artesian.

Irshad asked if they've been issued a check yet.

Cindy replied that the check was issued but was rejected by the bank due to a problem with the endorsement, so we're going to have to reissue it.

### c. **Outreach coordinator recruitment**

Cindy reported that we've got a job description and are working to fill the part-time outreach coordinator position that was included in the 2024 budget for SSA43. We're especially interested in finding someone local and who has language skills in Hindi or Urdu. We had one person no-show an interview and another that rescheduled the interview multiple times.

Irshad asked if RPBA would consider ITIN applicants or a 1099 position - he may know some potential candidates but isn't sure on their immigration status.

Cindy isn't sure but will follow up with Sandi on this.

Keith asked Cindy to share a copy of the job description with the 50th Ward - Cindy will send it over.

### d. **2024 Murals**

Cindy has heard from two different community organizations interested in commissioning murals on Devon - they're looking to connect with building owners for a wall. One is Mandala Arts, which has selected an artist and has some



funding from DCASE.

**e. Pigeon abatement**

Cindy reported that the exterminators have been working on the Devon/Richmond corner again as well as the Dollar Tree building, which is new this year. In the course of their work they also shared feedback with the businesses about some improper storage and garbage disposal practices that were contributing to the issue.

Irshad said he's aware of 3-4 additional businesses that have pigeon infestation issues. Cindy asked for addresses and owner contact info if available to follow up about scheduling additional pigeon work.

Keith added that he'll be in touch with the ward streets & san superintendent about pigeon problem areas.

**f. Landscaping**

Cindy shared that we're shifting to Patch landscaping for 2024 - we've had some issues with the current vendor, and are excited to work with Patch next year because they've been really responsive during the bid and interview process, and they're local to the area at Ravenswood and Peterson.

Junaid asked about snow removal and litter contracts.

Cindy reported that those contracts are being renewed. The last time we issued an RFP for snow we only got one or two bids, other SSAs have issued snow RFPs that got no responses. Cleanslate also seems to be the only game in town for SSA litter cleanup as far as we can gather.

**VII. Adjournment**

Cindy reminded commissioners that we've had several folks resign this year, and are in need of new commissioners if you know of anybody interested.

Keith asked if he might be eligible. Cindy said residents are allowed, but they have to live inside the SSA boundary. City employees are prohibited however. Another SSA in Rogers Park had a resident that wanted to join the commission for many years, but had to wait till he retired because he was a City employee.

Irshad suggested reaching out to Mohammed Bozai at Ghareeb Nawaz to see if he'd be interested in trying again, or if Rebeca from Asia Insurance would have any interest in coming back.

Cindy also reminded commissioners about the annual ssa meeting for all the RPBA SSAs, which we're hosting on December 14 at the Grow-Progresando training center at 7056 N. Clark. There will be food served - be on the lookout for an email soon to RSVP.

Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.

Next Meeting: All-SSA annual meeting at 9am on Thursday 12/14 at Grow-Progresando space at 7056 N Clark Street.