

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Irshad Khan, Pete Valavanis, Robert Taylor, Mohammad Junaid
Richard Trumbo

Commissioners Absent: Maura Levitt, Sanhita Agnihotri

Others present: Cindy Plante & Hiba Zakai, Rogers Park Business Alliance
Nana Ahmed, Agents of Hope

I. **Call to order**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

II. **Public comment**

Attendees and commissioners introduced themselves

Nana and others reported that they have seen ICE and CBP agents in the neighborhood last week and over the weekend, particularly at the Loyola parking lot next to Misericordia. Cindy will reach out to contacts at Loyola to see if they've heard anything about this.

Hiba asked if anyone has heard from the owners of Karachi Chaat House. Irshad reported that the business was closed due to a tax issue.

III. **Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Robert moved approval; Pete seconded.

5-0 Approved

IV. **2025 YTD financials update**

Cindy provided a summary of the financials, which were emailed to commissioners ahead of the meeting.

V. **BIP applications**

a. **Keystone Mortgage**

Cindy presented the request and passed around the drawing of new signage proposed for Keystone Mortgage, which is across the street from Republic Bank. Pete moved to approve the request; Robert seconded.
Approved 5-0

b. **Other pending applications (Ali Nihari, Cell Choice, Choice Cafe)**

Cindy kept these on the agenda because they were hoping to have their quotes and applications complete for this meeting, but we're still awaiting drawings and

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quotes from Ali Nihari. Cell Choice and Choice Cafe may have decided to hold off on the project for now due to the low foot traffic and slow sales that neighborhood ice activity has caused.

VI. **Special events**

Cindy reported on the West Ridge Dinner Crawl, and Hiba reported on a night market series held at Devon & Artesian by the SpaceShift group. This seemed like a neat idea, but was never really advertised widely; Cindy suggested that this may have been because they didn't actually have permits to hold this event. The SSA was not a sponsor. Irshat pointed out that they have been approved for sponsorship in the past for their Architecture Biennial installation which never actually materialized.

VII. **Public Way Projects**

a. **CitiBins**

Cindy got quotes for production & installation of 4 additional CitiBins on Devon but has not yet started on permitting or placed the order because we need to identify locations for their installation. The cost for 4 bins will be roughly the same as last year's, around \$15,000 total.

Irshad reached out to the ward superintendent to ask him to suggest locations that have the most need and most issues with litter complaints. Cindy will also ask the Cleanslate crew if they have any recommendations. We currently have two bins on opposite corners of Devon & Artesian and another two at Devon & Oakley. We'd like to include locations on both sides of Western.

Irshad proposed Claremont, Rockwell, Fairfield, or Maplewood.

Cindy likes the idea of including Rockwell because the public parking deck on that corner is opening later this week.

Robert asked if businesses could sponsor installation of additional CitiBins - the bank may want to do this. Cindy will look into this.

Pete moved approval of ordering 4 new receptacles for \$15,000 pending selection of installation locations; Junaid seconded.

Approved 5-0

b. **intersection stamps**

Cindy is following up with Gallagher and CDOT regarding potential installation of additional intersection mandalas next year, particularly at high-traffic locations like California Avenue west of Western and Oakley or Bell east of western.

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c. rooftop lights

Cindy expects to have installation of the rooftop holiday lights at Devon and Western scheduled soon, with costs staying roughly the same as last year. Are there other locations that we want to look at adding holiday lights?

Irshad would like to have more lights year-round to contribute to safety at night. Nana pointed out that the eastern end of the SSA near Ghareeb Nawaz is generally darker at night than the rest of the corridor. Cindy pointed out that the blocks east of Leavitt weren't included when the City did streetscape upgrades in the 2000's, so there's fewer poles and less access to electricity. We might be able to look into doing lights on some of the trees. Cindy will start looking at quotes.

Robert and Irshad asked Cindy to also contact the lighting company regarding the existing rope lights on the poles - some aren't working, and we'd like to update the color pattern for the holiday season. Cindy asked if they had specific blocks that need maintenance, or could provide a list.

Robert added that he'd been contacted by a local American Legion post that's interested in putting up more US flags along Devon; they didn't provide quotes or specifics, so he's asked them for more information.

Cindy reported that we won't have space on the streetlight poles due to the existing banners and mandalas; installing flag poles on businesses would most likely require public way use permits for each location since flags would be hanging over the sidewalk right of way.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm

Next Meeting: November 19, 2025, Republic Bank (noon)