

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 noon  
Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



## MEETING MINUTES

**Commissioners Present:** Robert Taylor, Richard Trumbo, Maura Levit,  
Pete Valavanis

**Commissioners Absent:** Irshad Khan, Sanhita Agnihotri, Mohammad Junaid

**Others Present:** Cindy Plante, Hiba Zakai & Sandi Price, RPBA  
Nana Ahmed, Agents of Hope  
Keith Solokowski - 50th ward office  
Sabrina Akbar - Muslims for Just Futures  
Sara & Shazia - Nayab Mart

I. **Call to order**

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 12:06pm  
Commissioners and attendees introduced themselves

II. **Public comment**

There was no public comment

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

Robert moved approval; Pete seconded  
Approved 4-0

IV. **Financials update**

Sandi reported that the annual audit has been pushed back due to further delays from the county, so the city has postponed the deadline to sometime in June. We can't start the audit until we receive documentation from the city and county that we haven't yet gotten. We hope to have an audit on next month's agenda unless they delay it again.

Cindy presented a summary of the financials of the SSA as of March 31. SSA43 has a positive bank balance and has been receiving money from the City; we expect to get more as the county processes first installment property tax bills. The payment deadline just passed recently.

V. **SSA officer elections**

Cindy reported that SSA43 is overdue to have officer elections - it's



supposed to be done every 2 years and we haven't, so it's time to get caught up. Currently, the officers are: Irshad as chair, Pete as Vice Chair, Maura as secretary, and Sanhita as treasurer.

Pete nominated Maura, Pete, and Irshad to continue in their roles and nominated Robert as treasurer.

Robert seconded Pete's motion.

Approved 4-0.

## VI. BIP & Camera rebate applications

- **Nayab Mart - 2449 W. Devon - facade - \$8000**

Cindy and Hiba presented the updated application which was originally presented at the last meeting and continued because commissioners wanted to see an updated design, which they've since submitted. It's still pretty similar to the existing sign because that's what their logo looks like, but the new sign will be LED. Richard asked what kind of business is Nayab Mart - it's not immediately clear from the name or signage. Sara responded that they're a halal grocery store.

Pete moved approval; Maura seconded

Approved 4-0.

- **MAH Designer Boutique - 2452 W. Devon**

Cindy kept this on the agenda from last time because we were waiting for the applicant to submit additional documentation and contractor quotes. We haven't received any additional quotes, and it looks like the facade and signage work that the applicant was seeking to fund has been completed. While the completed facade looks lovely, the fact that it has been finished before receiving funding approval means it is no longer eligible for a rebate.

Hiba added that the applicant has been told that he can still apply for any remaining work that hasn't been started yet, but it will still require two separate written quotes, and would need to be voted on before any work begins; he has not done so. There may have been some misunderstanding between the applicant and a commissioner regarding program guidelines.



## VII. Events

- **Arts on Devon updates**

Cindy and Sandi reported that the agreement with BigBuzz for Arts on Devon has been finalized and we're meeting with them next week to start on applications. We hope to expand the footprint this year to include the adjacent portion of Washtenaw in addition to the parking lot, and hoping to include food and additional vendors. The date has been moved again due to conflicts throughout September and October, so the new date is Sunday August 30.

- **Event sponsorship requests**

- **Agents of Hope Family Fest**

Cindy introduced Nana to present her organization's request. Agents of Hope applied for sponsorship for their family fest last year and the request was approved, but they weren't able to find a suitable venue within the SSA so it was moved to Warren Park, making it ineligible for SSA sponsorship since it was outside the SSA boundary. They reported attendance of over 500, including several elected officials. This year they're planning to host it at the Republic Bank parking lot in June.

Robert asked about the event scope.

Nana responded that it will include vendor booths for local businesses, bouncy houses and kids activities, and food. Elected officials attend but don't give speeches.

Robert reported that he has to check on the date availability with the company that is now managing the parking lot - procedures have changed for parking lot use since they began working with a new company to manage the lot. Nana will follow up with Robert separately on confirming the date.

Cindy reminded commissioners that if the event is approved but doesn't happen, no payment is made, which is what happened last year. The event sponsorship program guidelines allow for 20% of the event budget up to a maximum amount of \$8,000. The request is for \$4,485.

Pete moved approval.

Maura asked about the event date

Nana reported that it's scheduled for June 13. Keith offered to have

## Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 noon

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the Alderwoman prepare a written comment or support letter if that's something they want for the event, though she's unable to attend in person.

Sabrina asked about the timeline for event sponsorship applications. Cindy recommends a minimum of 2 months before the event date -

- We were hoping to have additional applications for the Indian Independence and Pakistan Independence day parades and festivities on Devon in August but they weren't ready, so these will probably be on next month's meeting agenda.

Robert asked about the goals of the event sponsorship program and whether there are particular guidelines.

Cindy and Hiba pointed to the program information and application form on the website. The primary goal is to draw visitors and foot traffic to Devon, and also generate content for our website and social media. Nana added that while many attendees are local, vendors and participants come from throughout the Chicago area including UIC and other universities.

Maura asked if they've paid for any of this year's expenses yet. Nana reported that they have not.

Robert asked how much the SSA has in the budget for special events this year. Cindy reported that the budget has \$76,500 for special events, including Arts on Devon and any sponsorship requests. Last year we provided sponsorships for the Indian Independence Day Parade and West Ridge Chamber's restaurant crawl event, and approved a request for this event but since the event moved to Warren Park, we didn't actually spend anything.

Richard expressed concern that there aren't many places in the SSA to host these types of events - Music House has to hold most of their events outside the district. Maura asked about the possibility of establishing a new site for such events or expanding the SSA boundary to include one of the adjacent parks.

Robert seconded Pete's motion to approve.

Approved 3-0-1 with Maura abstaining.

Maura asked where they're planning to source food. Nana says last year it was mostly Devon restaurants, which they plan to do again.

Pete asked if the baseball park, Warren park, or Loyola parking lots by

## Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



Devon and Damen lots could be added to the SSA boundary in the future. Cindy will look into when our renewal is up, it should be coming up within the next few years. Sandi recommended against including Warren park because it has its own parking lots, making it questionable whether it really brings any foot traffic to Devon. Loyola's parking lot might make more sense to bring people to because people have to access it from Devon Avenue. Including the baseball park would also be difficult because it crosses into the Village of Lincolnwood and other aldermanic wards.

### VIII. **Ethics filings reminder - City & County Due May 1, 2026**

Cindy reminded commissioners that annual ethics filings for the City and County are both due May 1, and encouraged commissioners to make sure to file on both websites. Several commissioners asked if they're on the list of who still hasn't submitted yet. Cindy will follow up with her contacts at the City; usually they send out lists of who still needs to file and haven't started doing this yet for this year.

### IX. **Adjournment**

meeting adjourned at 1:02

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Republic Bank (noon)