



SSA Commissioners Meeting  
Wintrust Loyola, 6420 N. Sheridan Rd.  
2pm, Tuesday, Mar 10, 2026

### Minutes

Commissioners present: Cesar Coronado, Stefanie Roti, Sara Lukens

Commissioners absent: Jennifer Clark

Others Present: Cindy Plante, RPBA  
Zach Joseph, 49th ward office

#### 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm

#### 2. Public comment

Sara has a conflict with the July meeting as it's currently scheduled; she will be out of town and asked to move it earlier in the month would be better. Cindy has no objections moving it to July 7 and will update the calendar accordingly.

Cindy shared that she recently met with the new owner of the 400 Theater. The theater will be reopening soon, though we don't have a specific date yet as the new owner is working on equipment and facility repairs and upgrades. In the meantime, the patio is going to be part of this year's First Fridays music series.

Cindy reported that Alexanders also had a break-in over the weekend and she's been in contact with them about applying for the criminal damage repair rebate.

#### 3. Approve minutes from previous meeting

Sara moved approval; Cesar seconded.

Approved 3-0

#### **4. YTD financials**

Cindy shared financials with commissioners via email. The biggest news for us for this year was that we found out in December that the district EAV for SSA54 dropped by about 30% compared to the previous year, meaning that the adopted budget for 2026 actually exceeds the tax cap. The city isn't asking us to redo our budget, but we will have to skip some of the spending that had been previously approved. For this reason, Cindy didn't move forward on Chicago Sculpture Exhibit installations for this year, even though it was approved at the last meeting.

SSA54 has a current balance of \$89k after taking in about \$122,000 since January 1, mostly from last year's 2nd installment that was delayed. This year's first installment bills have been sent out and are also delayed slightly, due in April instead of the usual March deadline. Another financial update was that we discovered that in 2024, Loyola University didn't contribute their usual \$15,000 payment to RPBA that they usually make. While they have sent RPBA the money for 2026 already, they've reported that they can go back and pay the missed payment due to current budget issues. Cesar asked if RPBA can send an invoice, or is this already happening? Cindy will check with accounting.

Speaking of accounting, Cindy shared that we are working with a new audit firm this year and will need to add an extra meeting to the calendar in April for the annual audit and suggested Tuesday April 28. All agreed. Cindy will update the calendar accordingly.

#### **5. Officer elections**

Cindy reported that SSA54 hasn't held officer elections in the last few years, and is overdue to do so. Jennifer has been our chair for most of Cindy's tenure at RPBA. The main responsibility of the SSA commission chair includes signing off on our service provider agreement and budget forms each year. Sara shared that she's usually on site at her store in the district and can easily take this on. Cesar and Stefanie both feel that

they're too new for this role. Cesar nominated Sara.

Sara. Stephanie seconded.

Approved 3-0.

## **6. First Friday Music Series**

Cindy shared updates on this year's First Friday Music Series events, happening the first Fridays of May, June and September. As in years past, we're skipping July due to the 4th and August due to competition with other events and people being out of town.

Participating locations this year include Raising Cane's, the 400 theater, Khmai, Mama's African Kitchen, and the plaza by the red line; Cindy is awaiting confirmation from Giordanos since they participated last year. Most of the performance slots for the May 1 date are already booked, which will allow us to start marketing and promotions earlier this year, working with our PR team at The Silverman Group.

Cesar said to let him know if we want to offer smoothie samples on the plaza again.

Cindy will follow up with him separately once we get closer to the date.

## **7. Adjournment**

Cindy reminded commissioners that they'll be getting email reminders from the City soon about annual ethics filing deadlines on May 1; make sure to file on time with both the city and Cook County.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44pm

Next meeting: April 28, 2026