

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



MINUTES

Commissioners present: Irshad Khan, Maura Levitt, Richard Trumbo, Sanhita Agnihotri

Commissioners absent: Pete Valavanis, Robert Taylor

Others present: Cindy Plante & Hiba Zakai - Rogers Park Business Alliance
Larissa Tyler & Michael Land - West Ridge Chamber of Commerce
Keith Sokolowski - 49th ward office
Rehan Saleem - Spinzer
Megha Ralapati - SpaceShift Collective

- I. **Call to order (1 minute)**
Commissioners and attendees introduced themselves.
- II. **Public comment (2 minutes per speaker; max 10 minutes)**
- III. **Approval of minutes from the last meeting (1 minute) (vote needed)**
Sanhita moved to approve the minutes; Richard Seconded
Approved 4-0
- IV. **Financials update**
Cindy Shared a summary of the financials that were emailed to commissioners ahead of the meeting
- V. **BIP & Camera rebate applications**
There were no applications this month.
- VI. **Event sponsorship applications (votes needed)**
 - **West Ridge Chamber Food Crawl September 19**
Cindy introduced Larissa to present the request for the West Ridge Chamber restaurant crawl in September.

Larissa introduced herself to the commission; she is the executive director and Mike is the board treasurer. This is the fourth year for the event and is the chamber's longest-running event. The list provided is a list of restaurants that have participated in the past - apologies to Spinzer for being left out, as he was part of it last year. They're trying to add 5 more restaurants for this year. If budget

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allows they want to add more restaurants and potentially an additional trolley. The event also includes live music from local musicians playing at each restaurant and on the trolley. Over 100 people have participated in the event since its inception, and the only thing keeping it that low is the budget since that limits the number of restaurants and the number of seats on the trolley.

The event has sold out every year, usually within a week or two - there are 35 seats on the trolley.

Irshad asked about how the event is marketed that it sells out so consistently.

Larissa said that it's primarily on the Chamber's social media and newsletter, as well as distribution of flyers and posters. Elected officials have gotten involved in the past as sponsors and attendees. The budget provided for 2026 is higher than last year by about \$2,000 and doesn't include the additional trolley. It does include payment to musicians and additional staff to help out during the day. Last year SSA43 was the premiere sponsor for the event. We are asking for sponsorship of the full amount this year

Hiba asked how many restaurants are being included this year?

Larissa is aiming for at least 5. One year there were 7 but this was too many. They're also considering adding a boutique or other retail stop this year.

Irshad asked how long the bus stays at each restaurant?

Larissa says about 20 minutes for each location.

Cindy asked if the trolley quotes have been updated to reflect the higher cost of gas this year compared to last time?

Larissa has reached out to Chicago Trolley for updated quotes. Part of why the budget is higher than last year is because we know that the prices have all gone up.



Mitra asked if it would be possible for people to do the crawl without having a seat on the trolley - add a walking tour option?

Larissa has considered this - there has been a waiting list in previous years where they have contacted folks to invite them to come on their own and could do so again.

Hiba asked about the number of restaurants projected in the budget since it says 5-10. Larissa said that if we add a second trolley it would be 10 with the trolleys each having different routes.

Sanhita asked how much the restaurants pay and what they have to do to participate?

Larissa says that there's an application for restaurants to fill out where they provide a menu and preferred time for the trolley to arrive. They haven't started signing up restaurants yet - it will depend on how much budget is available.

Cindy shared that last year our sponsorship amount was \$4,000.

Richard is supportive of the event, noting that it has a good track record.

Maura proposed approving \$5,000. Sanhita seconded.
Approved 4-0.

- **SpaceShift Block Party September 19**

Megha introduced herself - SpaceShift is a collective of artists in the area that have ties to Devon. In 2022 they used the former starlight jewelers space across the street for pop-up arts programming through a partnership with the building owner and Northwestern. The program being proposed for September is focused on music - bringing together Chicago house music and music on Devon. It's intended to be a non-commercial event, so free to attend. Their last

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event on Devon was a night market event last summer on Artesian, this would be similar, with two stages on each end of the street and space for dancing in between, with chai and snacks.

Irshad asked for specifics on the location.

Megha said they'd like to do this on the street rather than a park so that there's more walk-up traffic. Artesian is preferred because it has wide sidewalks. They've already gotten a grant from the Asian Giving Circle with September 19 as the date, running from 3-9pm, so it would overlap with the Restaurant Crawl, which might be a good thing. They're requesting \$7500 to assist with travel costs for some of the artists that would be coming to perform.

Irshad would like more information before voting on this. Megha agreed and will come back to the July meeting with more details fleshed out.

VII. Arts on Devon updates

Cindy will send out the link for the call to performers - the deadline to apply is June 23. It's on our website and in our newsletter

VIII. Preliminary 2027 budget discussion

Cindy shared that she's working on a draft budget with minimal changes from the current year - only about 2% increase year over year, mostly due to increased costs for services like audit and bookkeeping.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:07pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2026, Republic Bank (noon)