

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



MINUTES

Members present: Irshad Khan, Maura Levit, Sanhita Agnihotri, Richard Trumbo

Members absent: Robert Taylor, Pete Valavanis

Others present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, Hiba Zakai RPBA

Keith Solokowski, Sydney 50th ward

Abduljabbar & Srijana, Rohingya culture center

Megha Ralapati, SpaceShift

Ameeruddin Mohammed, Ruman Chai

Sabrina Akbar, Muslims for Just Futures

1. Call to order (1 minute)

Meeting was called to order at 12:05

Commissioners and visitors introduced themselves.

2. Public comment (2 minutes per speaker; max 10 minutes)

Cindy shared that Brandon has left RPBA and invited commissioners to sign a retirement card.

Keith asked how many Chicago sculpture exhibit installations the SSA sponsored for this year. Cindy said there are two - one at Bell and one at Artesian. Keith said the 50th ward would like to sponsor some next year with menu money.

3. Approval of minutes from the last meeting (1 minute) (vote needed)

Sanhita moved approval, Maura seconded

Approved.

4. YTD Financials update

Cindy provided a summary of the financials, which were provided to commissioners via email. The county is delaying second installment property tax collections again until at least October.

Irshad asked about Intersection stamps and garbage cans. Cindy has been holding off on this due to the continued uncertainty over property tax timing.

Sandi asked Keith about the status of the crosswalk lighting project that was approved and paid for last year. He will check.



5. 2027 SSA Budget & Service Provider (vote needed)

Cindy presented the proposed budget for FY 2027.

Sanhita moved to approve the budget and service provider agency. Maura seconded.

Approved.

6. BIP & Camera rebate applications - Ruman Chai - requesting max \$7900

Hiba introduced Ameeruddin Mohammed from Ruman Chai, he's applying for funding for a new sign for the shop at Devon and Artesian.

Irshad asked which vendors bid? Cindy replied that the applicant submitted bids from Raaz Sign and Sign America. Prices were pretty close, both under \$16,000.

Irshad reminded Cindy to include language in the notice to proceed letter that reimbursement requires that the applicant use one of the two quotes submitted. Cindy agreed. Irshad noted that one of the quotes is dated 7/18 but today is 7/14. Sanhita asked if the sign is lit. Cindy said yes.

Maura moved approval, Sanhita seconded.

Approved.

7. Event sponsorship applications (votes needed)

○ **Pakistan Day block party August 15 - requesting \$5,000**

Cindy presented a summary of the request, there was some confusion as to the specific dollar amounts of the budgets of the request. Hiba added that the event is being sponsored by several businesses east of Western.

Irshad asked if they've submitted street closure permits. Keith hasn't seen any submissions for a block party or special event for this on any of the dates that have been mentioned. Sandi added that if they're including food or music, that requires a special event permit rather than just a block party. Sandi suggested adding a section to the application about permit submissions. Cindy said it could be permits or attestation that it's on private property like one of the parking lots.

○ **India Independence Day Parade August 23 - requesting \$8,000**

Cindy invited Sanhita to speak on this. Sanhita corrected the date - it's August 23 and starts at 11:30am. It's been going on for over 30 years; the parade route starts at Wester and Devon and ends at Washtenaw with a



parking lot party at the bank. Last year's total event budget was over \$150,000.

Irshad asked if the ssa sponsored this event last year. Cindy said yes - similar budget.

Maura moved to approve the request for \$8,000. Richard seconded.

Approved 3-0 (Sanhita abstains).

- **SpaceShift Block Party September 19 - requesting \$7,500**

Cindy introduced Megha from SpaceShift; she had originally presented this request at last month's meeting but was asked to come back with more detail, partly due to overlap with the West Ridge Chamber's Restaurant Crawl event on the same day. The SpaceShift event is proposed to run from 3-9pm.

Megha presented the event proposal - they've gotten 10 musicians lined up to perform, and there will be workshops the day before and after with some of the participating artists. The site plan includes 2 stages for DJ booths and space to dance in between. They've done special event permits in the past for last year's night market events on Artesian and have completed an application for this year that they're getting ready to submit.

The location is likely to be either Washtenaw next to the Republic Bank parking lot, which was their first choice; the second choice site is either Talman or Washtenaw south of Devon. Irshad suggested following up with Robert about using the bank parking lot rather than closing the street. The request initially was for \$7500 and the total budget was \$25,500. Sandi reminded attendees that the program guidelines cap event sponsorships at 20% of event budget and asked about other funding sources.

Megha reported that the rest is coming from Asian Giving Circle and Chicago Community Trust.

Maura asked how much is left in the special events budget for this year?

Cindy reported that there's \$76,500 in special events for FY26, and we've spent \$32,000 year to date. Most of the remaining expenses for Arts on Devon won't hit until September, but we're also under budget for the whole Customer Attraction budget.

Richard asked about expected attendance and timing.

Megha said that they're not sure about attendance, hopefully in the hundreds. They are expecting it to end at 9pm due to proximity to



residential buildings.

Richard asked about impact to storefront businesses in the proposed event footprint. Megha said that the Washtenaw block next to the bank doesn't have any, though there would be on Talman and the other block of Washtenaw.

Cindy asked about the marketing plan - are there posters, graphics or links that we can feed to our social media team for inclusion in the content calendar.

Sandi asked about how event sponsors are being included in marketing materials.

Megha said that they'd include logos on digital materials and flyers in the past.

Maura moved approval of a \$5000 sponsorship for the event contingent on permits and location being finalized.

Richard seconded.

Approved.

8. Arts on Devon updates

sign up for volunteer shifts:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48A4AD2AA7F8C61-63207383-2026#/>

Cindy reported that we got over 30 submissions for on-stage performances and are narrowing down the lineup. We've also confirmed 3 chalk artists.

Irshad asked about putting all the chalk artists together in a specific area rather than spreading them out. Cindy will suggest this - we are going to have a larger site plan this year.

Irshad asked for a list of participating vendors for this year.

Hiba reported that there are two Salons that are going to be doing henna - AAdam salon and Tulli beauty supply. Food continues to be a challenge - we'd really like to get at least one food truck but the one we had been pursuing was sold and is no longer available; Big Buzz is reaching out to food vendors they've been working with on other festivals.

9. Adjournment

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



Richard encouraged people to check out the show Delhi Boys on Hulu - they filmed most of it on Devon and suggested doing something with marketing around this.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 11 2026, Republic Bank (noon)