

Devon SSA #43 Commission Meeting

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 noon

Republic Bank - 2720 W. Devon Ave.



MEETING MINUTES

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

Members absent: Mohammad Junaid

Others present: Larissa Tyler, West Ridge Chamber of Commerce
Ald. Debra Silverstein & Keith Solokowski - 50th ward
Ameeruddin Mohammed, Ruman Chai
Cindy Plante, Sandi Price, Hiba Zakai, RPBA

I. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm

Sanhita will be out on 10/13 because she will be out of the country

II. Public comment

Larissa presented a proposal from the West Ridge Chamber of Commerce - they're planning an event around a world record attempt at creating the world's largest samosa on Devon. They've already met with Ald. Silverstein, Republic Bank, Devon Bank, and the City's department of business affairs & consumer protection.

Meetings are being set up with additional elected officials at the county and state level. Guinness would fly in adjudicators to determine whether the effort to break the world record is successful. WRCC is also pursuing funding from the city's Department of Cultural Affairs & Special events. They hope to do this within the year. The current world record was achieved in England in 2017. It's more than a single day event because it can include additional programming in the leadup, bringing national and international media & attention to Devon.

Irshad asked who would be cooking it?

Larissa has been in contact with several area restaurants including Annapurna and a few others as well as potential manufacturers for the custom frying equipment that would be needed. They're also seeking sponsors for components like the peas and potatoes.

Maura asked about equipment needs. Larissa said it would need to be deep fried, so they're looking into sourcing a fryer big enough to cook it.

Sandi asked for more detail on the proposed budget.

Larissa and Robert talked about the inclusion of a launch party that would be held at the bank to welcome the Guinness adjudicators - the bank would be sponsoring



this event. The actual making of the samosa would have to actually be done twice - there's a test run before the actual world record attempt.

Cindy asked if they have a charity partner in mind for distribution of the food?

Larissa says they don't have a specific one yet; they are reaching out to several community organizations to put together a list of partners moving forward.

Cindy asked what happens to the frying equipment after the event if it has to be custom made for the event?

Larissa said they'd like to display it somewhere, maybe bronze it.

Ameeruddin asked how big of a samosa they're going to try for? Larissa says the goal is 350 lbs. The current world record is 337 lbs. Ald. Silverstein added that it would be all-vegetarian and kosher.

Larissa thanked the SSA for sponsoring the WRCC restaurant crawl, and acknowledged that the SSA can't take a vote on this today. She would appreciate the support on this moving forward because it's more than just a single event.

III. Approval of minutes from the last meeting

Maura moved to approve the minutes. Sanhita seconded.

Approved.

IV. YTD Financials update

Cindy shared a summary of the financials which were shared via email.

Sandi noted that we did get a finding on the audit that we overspent what was budgeted last year due to the crosswalk project.

Cindy added that we also didn't get the full amount that was budgeted in 2025 because of the property tax bills being delayed. We weren't expecting the City to bill us for the crosswalk project in '25, but they did and we had to pay in full in order to have them move forward on scheduling installation.

V. BIP & Camera rebate applications

○ Weddtique by Natasha - 2751 W Devon - max \$4701

Cindy presented the submission from the business owner and photos of the proposed signage. Irshad asked if the letters are white or black because the photos show both. Cindy pointed out that the quotes specify that it's white acrylic. Sanhita asked if it's lit. Cindy pointed out that it is.

Irshad asked if we require that applicants submit a lease - Cindy said no; they are required to obtain a signature from the building owner. Irshad



pointed out that this is all typed, including the signature, so it shouldn't count. Sandi asked about approving it conditioned on getting a wet signature.

Robert moved to postpone this to the next meeting to get a proper signature and have the person attend the next meeting.

Irshad seconded.

Approved.

- **Afghan House - 2948 W Devon - max \$8,000**

Cindy presented the application that was submitted for new signage at Afghan House. Irshad asked if there was a photo of the current signage. Cindy reported that they didn't submit one, but the google maps image from 2025 shows the existing signage, which appears to be either a flat pan sign or possibly a vinyl banner.

Maura moved approval of the request. Robert seconded.

Approved.

- **Universal Electronics criminal damage repair rebate - \$1700**

Cindy presented a criminal damage repair rebate submitted by Universal Electronics for their window and front door that were damaged during a break-in. They've submitted a police report and an invoice for board-up and repairs that came to \$3550. The program guidelines provide for a 50% rebate up to a maximum of \$2,000 for criminal damage repair, so this would come to \$1775.

Robert moved approval. Maura seconded.

Approved.

VI. Events Sponsorship request

- **Chicago Kid Fest - \$638**

Cindy introduced the application - organizers have already shared the marketing flyer and it's been passed on to Admark for inclusion in this month's social media content calendar. Flyers were also distributed at Arts on Devon. Richard shared that the event is scheduled for 9/20 on the side street between Devon and the Alley on Richmond. Expenses are for permits, barricades and staffing. The total event budget is \$3200, and they're requesting 20% or \$638 as allowed under the event sponsorship program guidelines.



Richard added that when the event was held last year it drew 250 families and included over 20 vendors.

Ald. Silverstein asked about the hours. Cindy reported that it's 9-1 pm.

Ald. Silverstein asked about any potential conflict with the start of the Yom Kippur holiday that evening. Richard will follow up with the rabbi of the synagogue about parking lot access

Robert moved approval, Maura seconded.

Approved 4-0-1 with Richard abstaining.

VII. Event updates & recaps

○ Arts on Devon

Cindy reported that Arts on Devon was held last week on August 30 and drew fairly strong turnout despite rainy weather. We had 2 food trucks participate this year in the expanded festival footprint on Washtenaw, though they reported slow sales. The participatory mural project was popular, and the artist is currently preparing it for installation - we're in contact with a few building owners at Devon and Artesian where we're looking to install it in the coming weeks.

Irshad asked about the total event spending. Cindy reported that invoices are still coming in, so we expect to have the total available at the next meeting.

Sanhita asked if the trolleys were used.

Cindy said that they didn't get as much use as they did last year, which we attribute partly to the weather and partly due to the buses being less trolley-like than the ones we used previously. If we repeat it again next year we would most likely go back to the vendor we used last time.

Irshad suggested identifying an indoor rain site for this event in the future.

○ SpaceShift Deevona event 9/19

Cindy reported that she's been in contact with the organizers who report that they have submitted for event permits and been in contact with the 50th ward. There was some confusion over the fact that Sabka Sahara Church is scheduled to hold their annual church carnival in the Republic Bank lot at the same time the Deevona event is planned for the adjacent block of Washtenaw, creating potential conflict between amplified sound at the two events, but they've reported that they've been able to connect with the church and sort it out.



Irshad asked for clarification as to whether SpaceShift has been issued permits yet for this event.

Keith said that the 50th ward is aware of the submission but at last check it was still in the system as pending. Cindy added that for most of the events she has worked on this summer including Arts on Devon, it's not unusual for the permit to be issued a day or two before the event date, so this isn't entirely unexpected. Keith will look into the status of the event permit and report back to the group.

Cindy reminded the commissioners that the funding approval for this event was conditioned on the organizers receiving permits for the street closure, and that funding is usually handled as a reimbursement similar to other SSA rebate programs, so no funding has been issued yet and won't be until after the event is held and the required documentation is submitted.

Sanhita asked if the organizers have shared marketing materials yet for this event. Cindy reported that they have shared a poster and event link, which we've passed along to Admark for inclusion on social media.

VIII. **Capital improvements**

- **California Ave intersection stamp**

Cindy reported that she's waiting on another intersection stamp project to wrap up before moving on to this one.

- **Crosswalk Lights -**

Ald. Silverstein reported that the materials have arrived and they're waiting on the city to schedule installation with the contractor. We don't have a specific date yet for installation.

- **CitiBins**

Cindy is waiting on guidance from the ward superintendent about recommended locations for these.

Keith asked how many. Cindy said it would most likely be another 4 corners.

Robert asked Ald. Silverstein about tree maintenance - there are trees in Warren Park that are overgrown into adjacent city alleys. Does the city maintain those or is it the Park District? Ald. Silverstein recommended reaching out to the park district.

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Cindy shared that Pete has sold his business and resigned from the SSA, something he's been planning to do for some time. They're having an anniversary party and retirement sendoff event at the bar on September 19. Sandi pointed out that this is the same day as both the West Ridge Chamber restaurant crawl and the SpaceShift event on Washtenaw.

Irshad asked how many vacancies we have on the SSA commission - Cindy reported that Pete's departure means we're currently at 5. There are some pending applications, including Rehan from Spinzer and Nana from Agents of Hope - there was some difficulty identifying PINs for her storefronts. Irshad is the owner of one of the properties and will follow up on this with her.

Hiba shared that she's been in contact with two property owners and another business owner that are interested in applying. Rehan from Spinzer submitted an application but was rejected for not coming to meetings.

Ald. Silverstein says that she wants to see people start coming to meetings regularly before she's willing to submit support letters for SSA commission applications.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2026, Republic Bank (noon)