

DRAFT MINUTES
SSA #26 Commission
WED 1/28/2026

Edgewater Chamber of Commerce
1210 W. Rosedale Ave.
3:00 PM

In attendance:

Commissioners: Margaret Hagerty, Chair; Rajan Shahi, Daryl Sneed

Staff: Garrett Karp, Executive Director; Jessica Wobbekind, Director of Community Development

Guests: Ben Rees

- 1) Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m. by MH
- 2) The Commission reviewed the October 29, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the October 29, 2025 minutes by MH, Second RS, All in favor

- 3) The Commission reviewed the Financials through 12/31/25, report by JW
 - a. Spending in December was very low because the tax bills were so late and then the disbursements were delayed.
 - b. The disbursements are now coming in slowly, bills are paid.
 - c. 2026 budget update: the 2025 EAV went down and the 2026 levy request was higher than the maximum allowable levy by \$20,626. So far the City has not advised that the budget needs to be revised.

Motion to approve the Financial Reports through December 31, 2025 by MH, Second DS, All in favor

- 4) The Commission reviewed the 4th Quarter report.

Motion to approve 4th Quarter report as presented by MH, Second DS, All in favor.

- 5) Chamber update, delivered by GK
 - a. The office has been short staffed since David left. The ECC Board is working on the 2026 budget, one that is complete, GK will start a search to replace David, probably someone with less experience.
 - b. The first Indoor Market of the season was successful. The Chamber received about 160 applications and about 2500 visitors attended. The SSA sponsored market giveaways will be hats and will be ready for the second market.
 - i. PR for the market has been great. WGN was at the market, CHIRP radio is interested. CBS is also interested but they want to film very early in the morning before the field house is open.
 - c. Edgewater Music Fest update
 - i. The dates for Edgewater Music Fest have been confirmed (Aug.28-30) and sponsorship outreach has begun.
 - ii. The production company, Criterion, has been confirmed.

- d. The next networking event will be Feb. 18 at Beard & Belly.
- 6) Elevate Devon progress update, delivered by JW- staff is still working through the process of permitting the crosswalks.
- 7) SSA Program Updates, delivered by JW
 - a. The Commission discussed Edgewater Music Festival Sponsorship. They would like a request from the ECC Board at the next meeting.
 - b. The Commission discussed the SSA Reconstitution
 - i. The Commission discussed the proposals from consultants.

Motion to approve Teska Associates as the consultant for the 2026 reconstitution of SSA 26 in an amount not to exceed \$37,230 from line item 4.09 (SSA Designation) by MH, Second by DS, All in favor.

- ii. JW updated the Commission on the timeline and next steps
 - c. The Commission discussed project planning ideas for 2026. Possible projects include more public seating, bus stop benches, more bike racks, new planters, public art and enhanced holiday decorations.
 - i. The commission discussed 2 public art projects:
 - 1. A mural, potentially at 5353 N Broadway, that celebrates the Nepali community in Edgewater and Chicago. Staff will put out an RFP and report back in April
 - 2. The Commission reviewed a proposal from Pizza In The Rain (PITR), they decided to table the request and revisit later.

8) Contract Updates

- a. No updates on Litter or Landscaping contracts
 - b. Snow removal
 - i. There were 3 snow events, the first was challenging but the staff checked in with Piersa, worked out issues and the service during the last event was good.
 - c. Holiday Décor will be removed in early February
- 9) Motion to adjourn meeting by MH, Second by DS, All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.