



SSA #25 Special Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2026
9:00 AM
Los Candiles Restaurant
2624 S Central Park Ave
Chicago, IL 60623
Meeting Minutes

- Welcome and Call Meeting to Order
 - The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM
- SSA #25 Commissioner Roll Call
 - Commissioners in attendance: Hugo Avilla, Rick Porrez, Elenda Duran, Richard Juarez Sr.
 - Commissioners Absent: None
 - Commissioners Excused: Claudia Rodriguez and Mike Moreno Jr.
 - Staff in Attendance: Blanca Soto, Jennifer Aguilar, Veronica, Paola Rodriguez
 - Public in Attendance: Marcus Aubin
- Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Commissioner Porrez motions to approve the Meeting Agenda; Commissioner Duran Seconds; all approve.
- Public Input
 - No public input
- Approval of SSA #25 April 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Commissioner Avila questioned old business, pg 2, on La Villita sin Plastico Proposal. It was pre-approved with a deal that a mock up would be presented but wasn't. Blanca Soto confirmed that it was received the day before, but was sent back for an update due to an error in misspelling. The mockup did not explain the idea of the proposal so a suggestion was made to add a QR code in order for people to scan and be more informed on the project. An update will be made, and it will be resend; completion date will be done by the end of the day.
 - Commissioner Duran motions to approve the SSA #25 April, 21, 2026, meeting minutes as presented; Commissioner Avila seconds; all approve.
- SSA #25 Financial Reports as of 4/30/26
 - As of 04/30/26, \$314,169.21 has been received; \$128,000 is for 2024 property taxes, and \$186,000 is for 2025 property taxes.
 - As of 04/30/26 \$72,244.82 has been expenses out
 - Biggest expenses are landscaping and sidewalk maintenance
 - Current cash flow is \$413,439.89
 - Commissioner Avila questions the uncleared checks and the priority of the checks by vendors.
 - Questioned if the checks were past due; still waiting on a few, as well as some mailed in taking longer time.
 - Commissioner Avila Motions to approve the 04/30/26 financials as presented; Commissioner Perez Seconds; all approve.
- SSA #25 Disbursement Payments
 - A total of five payment checks to be disbursed. Blanca read the list of payments to SSA #225 Commissioners.
 - Commissioner questions the replacement of the trash receptacle and how it was damaged on Pulaski and 25th, was clarified that a car had damaged it.
 - Commissioner Duran motions to approve the list of disbursement checks; Commissioner Avila seconds; all approve.

NEW BUSINESS:

- SSA #25 2025 Audit – Action Item
 - Auditor Gustavo called in for an update on financial statements; commissioners made themselves present
 - Statement of activities and governmental funding Exhibit 2; highlighted the lack of property taxes issued from year to the next
 - 2024: \$383,831 of property tax revenue
 - 2025: \$199,341 of property tax revenue
 - Gus had mentioned that the property tax bills did go out late, causing the gap 2024-2025
 - Chairman comments that if the property tax bill goes out on time for 2026, there should not be any glaring gaps like the previous year.
 - No forewarning from late tax issues, updated through the city
 - Blanca notes that if the SSA #25 decides to move through with the line of credit, it would be through the fiscal agent; the Chamber.
 - If funds are expensed out from the line of credit, the SSA would reimburse the chamber on those expenses; Projected cash flow would be the collateral.
 - Gustavo was dismissed from the meeting
 - Commissioner Juarez motioned to approve the 2025 audit; Commissioner Duran seconded; all approved
- SSA #25 Todos Juntos Video Project – Marcus Aubin
 - Marcus Aubin began explaining his background and connections with Little Village and why the Todos Juntos video project was important to him.
 - Went over the project overview, including the estimated budget ranging from \$5,000- \$10,000
 - Commissioner Avila questioned what the difference between the 5,000-10,000 budget was, and Aubin explained the length, format, and pre- and post-production can make the difference between low and high end of the budget.
 - The commissioners questioned the format of the video being in a documentary/short film.
 - Aubin was excused so the commissioners could discuss moving forward with this project; Commissioner Avila was hesitant of accepting the proposal because of the documentary style format.
 - Commissioners were debating between documentary or commercial video type
 - The timeline of the filming was also quite long since there is a possibility to have this film expand until next year since the board wants to capture the trolley in the “film.”
 - With a current revision to the budget, some funds will have to move around in order to afford the \$5,000- \$10,000 budget
 - Commissioner Juarez motioned to have a special SSA meeting in order to discuss moving forward with Aubin’s project on June 8th; Avila seconded the motion; all approved, and the motion passed.
- Blanca Soto Resignation
 - Blanca Soto provided some words of departure and thanked the commissioners for her time with the SSA #25 and the Little Village Chamber of Commerce
 - Chairman thanked Blanca for all the work she had done over the year and how much she was appreciated in the community and in the chamber.
 - Commissioner Duran also thanked Blanca and stated how much she looked up to her as an individual and how her dedication showed through the chamber.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Landscaping Updates – Pg. 22-23
 - Blanca provided two images with spring culture displays with the flowers planted on 26th St corridor; 25th St corridor plants were stolen but were replaced
 - Spring installation has bloomed; commissioner pleasantly commented on the white butterflies
 - Commissioner Avila clarified that the flowers were being stolen and not the whole plot
 - Commissioner Duran mentioned the possibility of having flowers planted in the two receptacles next to the post office; Blanca confirmed that she is reaching out to Mariana on that request
- SSA #25 Renewing Commissioners Updates
 - Commissioner Porrez has moved into city council approval; He will receive a notice soon
 - Commissioner Moreno Jr is currently going through the city depth check; then will move into city council approval
 - All other commissioners are current

- SSA #25 June 16th Commission Meeting
 - Don Pepe Restaurant, 3616 W 26th Street
- Commissioner Duran questions who will take over Blanca's role; Jennifer mentions that Veronica Peña will be moving into the SSA #25 role, and Paola Rodriguez will be moving into Veronica's current position as an assistant
 - Alfredo Palafox will be included in the SSA for outreach for events like the trolley and rebate programs.
 - Blanca added that Veronica is very qualified and has been with her for meetings for quite some time
 - A meeting will be held in July would be when the SSA's budget would be approved for next year
- Commissioner Avila mentioned that no clear decision was made for the Todos Juntos Video Project, and a further conversation needs to be had; a special commission meeting was made on June 8th at 2-4 pm at Nuevo Leon.
- Next month's meeting will be the Chairman's last meeting; he will be stepping down
- Commissioner Porrez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 AM; Commissioner Avila seconded; all in favor

Guidelines for Public Input:

- The purpose of public input is to ensure the community's perspectives are heard on matters relevant to Little Village SSA #25. Commissioners are not required to provide immediate responses to questions or concerns presented.
- Public input will occur at the start of each SSA #25 meeting following the Commissioner's roll call.
- All attendees may participate in public input; however, speaking time may be limited depending on the number of participants. The Commission will aim to limit this portion of the meeting to 15 minutes or less.
- The public input portion of the meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order. Key rules include:
- No attendee may speak a second time until all others wishing to speak have had an opportunity.
- All remarks must be directed to the Chair.
- Comments must be courteous, avoiding personal remarks or references to individuals by name or motive.
- Only one person may speak at a time; the presiding officer may call to order anyone who does otherwise.