

Howard Street Special Service Area #19

Minutes

Attending: Linda Szarkowski, Chair; Simone Freeman, Commissioner; Amona Buechler, Commissioner; Cally Raduenzel, Commissioner; Paul Reise, SSA 19 Manager; Carolina Juarez, RPBA Staff; Sandi Price, RPBA Staff; Scott Parish, Illuminight, Dave Skora, member of the public

Absent: Charlotte Walters, Commissioner

1. **Welcome**

The meeting was called to order at 8:07a.m.

2. **Community and public input**

None.

3. **Review and Approval of February 2015 Minutes**

The commission reviewed the February 2015 minutes. Corrections were requested: terminology regarding second mural should be clarified. No errors were found nor additional information requested. Motion to approve the February 2015 minutes with corrections made (Buechler/Raduenzel) Unanimously approved.

4. **Review of December Financials**

The commission reviewed the December 2014 financials. Paul explained that money collected does not always reflect what is budgeted, therefore commission should be alert. In 2014 88% of what was projected was actually collected. No corrections were requested. No errors were found nor additional information requested.

5. **Programs and Projects**

a. BIP Applications

Paul reported that IMU's windows have been installed, project is complete. Paul has approached Around the Clock to encourage them to apply for a BIP to get rid of gates on windows.

b. Second Mural Location

Paul has met with Lea & Dustin and son of owner of building at 2049 W. Howard. An agreement has been signed by all parties to paint mural on this wall. Lea and Dustin will send sketches which will be shared with commission as soon as available. Paul will set up meeting with Kevin Mcgiven to start conversation about painting a mural on his wall on the corner of Howard and Sheridan Road.

Commission discussed the content of the mural. They would like the mural to entail a combination of history and respect to howard and be representative of a "gateway-type" of art. The commission suggested acquiring testimonials from the community to archive and use when coming up with concept for mural. The commission also decided to have the mural done through an RFP. Simone will host testimonial sessions. RPBA will promote and provide her with recording device. SSA 19 will pay for free coffee for all who provide a testimony from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on one weekend day.

- c. Sculpture Project 1
Paul reported that he has submitted payment for one more year of participation with the Sculpture Exhibit Project. Once sculptures become available, Paul will send email to commission so they are able to vote and choose their favorite. Sculpture project 2: Amanda, Simone's contact who will be designing another sculpture will be sending three 3D sketches for commission to choose their favorite. Paul will send the choice via email.
- d. Landscaping
SSA #19 has hired Brickman Landscaping as new contractor for planters. Paul will have first meeting with them next week to discuss details. There was a conversation about outstanding invoice with Landscape Concepts. The commission decided Paul or RPBA should write a letter saying our books are closed, we will not pay due to the fact that they did not follow contract.
- e. Holiday Decorations
Scott from Lumity gave presentation about their services. Commission discussed options for hire. Scott will send proposal for lighting of trees, poles, and garden with options of types of lights, colors, and year round possibilities. Paul will send via email for commission to vote. Paul will talk with the city of Evanston about collaborating on this project in order to have street look uniform. Paul will also connect Scott and Lamanda Joy to discuss options for Hello Howard Garden. Scott offered his truck to use for mural on Howard and Sheridan.
- f. Artspace – survey launch party April 8th
Paul invited commission to launch party and to please spread the word. He will send more info/flyer via email later today. Dave offered to help write press release. The commission suggested that Paul should post the flyer for survey launch in art related places around the city of Chicago.
- g. Factory Theater
The new theater opening on Howard Street is interested in community involvement and partnering with other businesses. They plan on sharing space with other theater groups, the commission has suggested RPBA place a call for theaters in the happenings. Carolina will follow up with owner of theater, Carrie, to become a commissioner.
- h. Garden – opens April 25
The commission suggested Paul write a press release about garden opening and the fact that all the lots are sold out or full. This will help bring more business to Howard. Paul and PGP have hired Tony to do marketing and programming of Hello Howard Garden. Paul will forward MOU to commission via email. Paul will invite her to next month's meeting. Also address having a banner on garden fence with Tony when she is present at meeting next month.
- i. Street Pole Banners

The Commission discussed and decided to put money in budget of 2016 for pole banners and will not be discussed until January of 2016.

- j. **Billboard on Howard Theater Building**
Paul is still waiting for a proposal from Jay Johnson.

- k. **Upcoming Events**
 - i. **Movie in the park- The Lego Movie, August 26**
 - ii. **Harvest Fest – September 26**

6. **Old Business**

Regarding the street signs on Rogers Greenview Howard, Paul has brought up the issue with Mike land from the 49th ward alderman's office.

7. **New Business**

- a. **Quesadillas-** The commission and the community is very excited about this new vegan vegetarian Mexican restaurant on Howard Street.
- b. **Fatboy-** New restaurant opening where Buen Gusto used to be, it is reported to be a soul food jerk food type of place.
- c. **PAC convenience store-**New convenience store opening near taste of Trinidad.
- d. The commission discussed ways to reward businesses for maintaining a clean and inviting business. Paul suggested instead he should address property owners to keep their tenants accountable.
- e. Sol café has received the new coffee sleeves with the hello Howard logo.
- f. There was a discussion about RPBA hiring a new marketing person. The commission will consider contributing to salary in 2016 budget to have this person dedicate a little more time to marketing for Howard Street.
- g. The commission has asked that Paul bring an inventory of material and designs left over from a sparkfactor hello Howard campaign to next meeting.
- h. Sol café will consider using the BIP to acquire a sidewalk café for 2015 summer season. Carolina will follow up with Simone.
- i. Paul has created a timeline with strategic planning and other events including action items from every month meeting including a weekly progress report. Paul will email this spreadsheet to the commission on a weekly basis.
- j. Paul will include Gale Howard and Pete from Pete's Grill in upcoming commission emails even though they are not yet commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.