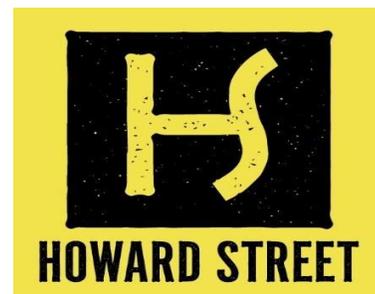


Howard Street Special Service Area #19
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86766143540>
dial in: +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 867 6614 3540

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 8:30 am
Minutes



Commissioners Present: Charlotte Walters, Gale Howard, Carrie Sullivan
Commissioners Absent Mike Smith
Others present Cindy Plante, RPBA; Lizzy Kreindler, A5

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 8:32am

The meeting is being held virtually on zoom due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment

3. Approval of the minutes from July meeting

Gale moved approval of the minutes. Charlotte seconded.

Approved.

4. SSA renewal update

Cindy reported that we've submitted all our documentation and signatures to the City - it's now being reviewed by DPD and the law department for creation of ordinances for City Council.

Lizzy is running a few minutes late, so Cindy also shared updates from Friday's anti-violence table meeting with Ald. Hadden and leadership from the 24th district police. The police got involved to disperse a large party in White Park over Labor Day because attendees were displaying weapons. The event was a vigil for two local guys that died in a car crash earlier in the weekend. The shooting at the Morse el stop last week was fatal and is believed to be related to ongoing gang conflict in uptown. There was also a shooting in Triangle Park north of Howard where no people were hit but a bullet went into someone's apartment at 415 Howard.

Charlotte asked if the police gave any indications on plans to prevent more of this. Is also concerned about open drug use on the CTA and conditions on Paulina.

Cindy reported that Commander Brennan is aware of the need for a regular beat officer to be assigned to Howard and is working to identify the right person so they can stick around awhile and get to know everybody. There are also still violence interrupters that are active in the area too. The 49th ward office is also rolling out participatory budgeting surveys - might be a good opportunity to push for street resurfacing and/or traffic calming on Paulina. Will send around the link.

5. Virtual Chalk Howard update

Lizzy presented performance data for Chalk Howard - there are 3 more left, with Hip Circle Studio being featured this coming Friday, then Howard Area Community Center and Sol Cafe. Charlotte asked about plans to display the artwork at businesses.

Lizzy has been working with Nate on getting artwork framed and formatted for exhibition and will be following up with businesses to identify locations for it to be displayed.

Since we started the series back in June we've gone from 59 instagram followers to over 500, and have been sending new followers PMs to thank them for following us. FB has also seen 10% growth this month. Media coverage of Chalk Howard has helped - it's been featured on WGN, ABC7, and the Sun Times. WGN was actually the top referral source for website traffic following their midday news feature.

6. Marketing/social media update

Lizzy also shared that we'll be getting photos back soon from the day of shooting on 9/10, which included IM Beaury, I'm Soul Hungry, Redz, Elevation Lofts, and Good to Go.

Our top google ad had a 2.6% clickthrough rate, which is above average. Thousands of people see the ad and a few hundred are clicking.

Charlotte asked about Halloween.

Cindy shared that she spoke to Irma from the Park District during the anti-violence meeting on Friday and they are reportedly going to try and move forward with outdoor Trunk-or-Treat this year, probably on Friday or Saturday of Halloween weekend. Wanted to discuss with commissioners to see if there's interest in doing trick or treating at businesses again like last

year. Concerned though because the CDC and the health department are still saying trick or treat is a high risk activity that they're discouraging, so not clear whether we should pursue it at this time or not.

Charlotte said that halloween sales have been slow this year so far due to parties and events being cancelled. Suggested holding off for now and making a decision at the October meeting closer.

Cindy asked if commissioners would like to do an additional round of Covid rebates for businesses ahead of the holidays. Commissioners agreed that this should move forward.

Cindy reminded commissioners that the state is again accepting applications for Business Interruption Grants - 60626 remains on the list of priority zip codes, and the eligibility guidelines include more industry classifications this time. Performing arts, tourism and hospitality are included in the priority businesses. There's a webinar on it later this morning - link is in the chat and will be emailed out.

There will also be emails coming soon about community engagement opportunities for the redevelopment of the City-owned lot at the corner of Howard and Ashland - there will be several community meetings in October, mostly virtual.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:42

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, October 21