

Howard Street Special Service Area #19
Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88205418899>
dial in: +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 88205418899

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes



Members Present: Charlotte Walters, David Skora, Renee Labrana,

Members Absent: Mike Smith, Gale Howard

Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, RPBA

Lizzy Kreindler, A5

Tim Amos - pending commissioner

1. Call to order

Pursuant to the applicable law and determination that attendance by remote means is necessary because an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the declared public health disaster caused by COVID-19, this meeting is conducted by videoconference.

Meeting called to order at 9:15am.

2. Public comment

Charlotte shared that she has a contact at Howard Area that's interested in applying to be a commissioner.

Lenice Levy introduced herself - she owns Good to Go on the Evanston side of Howard and is president of the merchants association for the Evanston side. She also just bought 2017 W. Howard on the Chicago side and is interested in joining as a commissioner.

3. Live Love Shop recap

Cindy presented a report on participation in the Live Love Shop holiday rebate program for the 2021 season. Participation declined slightly overall but SSA19 was the 2nd most popular SSA this year.

4. Social media recap

Lizzy presented social media and website performance data since the last meeting, which reflected a slight increase in website traffic.

Renee and Lenice said this was heartening to see, as this January has been the slowest they've ever seen, and are hearing the same from other restaurant owners.

Lenice asked about adding more content to the website - links to book reservations and appointments at businesses and a calendar of events in the area so there's more engagement on the site.

5. Approve meeting minutes from January

Charlotte moved approval, Renee seconded.
Approved 3-0.

6. Camera expansion

Cindy presented quotes to add SSA cameras to Jarvis Square and expand camera coverage at the intersection of Howard, Rogers, and Greenview. David asked about camera coverage on Greenview. Cindy said that both Howard and Jarvis will include some cameras pointing at Greenview.

Charlotte moved approval, David 2nded.
Approved 3-0.

7. Criminal damage rebate policy

Cindy presented a draft rebate policy to assist businesses in repairing storefronts damaged by criminal activity such as vandalism, break-ins, and gun violence. We've had an increasing number of these requests since 2020 across several SSAs and felt it was important to codify a policy for it moving forward. The program would provide 50% of repair costs not covered by insurance, up to a maximum of \$2,000.

David asked about requiring businesses to have insurance and asked about whether this would include security improvements.

Cindy pointed out language in the draft guidelines that requires applicants to make attestations about insurance as well as file a police report for the incident. The intention of this is to restore damaged property quickly - applicants will be encouraged to pursue BIP for security upgrades like security shutters, lighting, and safety film on glass.

Charlotte moved approval, David seconded.

Approved 3-0

8. Factory Theater BIP application

Cindy presented the application and quotes from Factory Theater to install fire doors that will allow Howard Street Brewing to open in the adjacent space as required by inspectors.

Charlotte moved approval, Renee seconded.

Approved 3-0.

9. 2022 Chalk Howard

Lizzy presented the budget proposal from A5, which was written to keep scope and fees the same as what was originally approved in February of 2020 before covid forced cancellation of the event.

David wants more detail in writing about the number and quality of artists to be included, and is especially interested in including more 3d art.

Lizzy provided some more detail about the proposal.

Charlotte moved approval, David seconded.

Approved 3-0.

10. Adjournment

Cindy reminded commissioners of the upcoming commissioner trainings being conducted by the City - please sign up for a time if you're new or haven't attended previously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, March 16, Zoom. 9am.