Members Present: Charlotte Walters, David Skora, Renee Labrana,
Members Absent: Mike Smith, Gale Howard
Others Present: Cindy Plante RPBA
Lizzy Kreindler, A5 Branding & digital
Tim Amos, Factory Theater - pending commissioner
Eva McCann resident & Willye White Park Advisory Council

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 9:02 am.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment

3. Approval of meeting minutes from April

Charlotte moved approval, Renee seconded.
Approved 3-0

4. Howard Street Beat Officers

Cindy has invited the foot patrol officers to the meeting but they were unable to attend. We'll share their contact info with commissioners via email. Also the monthly beat meeting for Howard Street is tonight at Willye White field house at 7pm - please attend if you’re free.

5. Jarvis Alfresco update

Cindy shared an update on the Jarvis Alfresco project - delay up to now was due to businesses wanting to change the design to include a covered parklet structure similar to what was installed at RP Social on Glenwood. This required us to retain an architect to prepare stamped drawings. We were recently told by BACP and Choose Chicago that this isn’t eligible to be included in the alfresco project, so we’re rolling it back to the design that was approved in December, which was inspired by the Ainslie arts plaza on Western. It will include a pavement mural, large planters, trash receptacles, and information kiosks.

Charlotte asked about the specific location.

Cindy says it’s the same footprint as the street closure that’s currently in place - 1500 block of Jarvis between Greenview and the Public Storage driveway.

6. Chalk Howard updates
Cindy shared that so far we’ve booked three 3d artists from around the country and are hoping to get a 4th. Star Events is working with Paint the City for 2d artists. The event announcement should be coming out later this week and will include info on food vendor signups. We’re also going to start booking entertainment soon. Based on community feedback we want to focus on local talent, with an emphasis on artists of color. Reminder that the event is on August 27.

7. Website & social media report

Lizzy presented updates on the website and social media for the month. We did a photoshoot last Friday for Fabulous Doll, Freddie’s, Factory, Anto, Taste, and Jarvis Square Tavern. The photos will be used for social media content, banners, ads, and to populate the Jarvis website. Daily Northwestern ads have been running for 2 weeks so far - we’re currently featuring Athena Board Games and Lost Eras. Engagement and traffic are up but not as much as they might be with a more specific call to action like an event.

David and Charlotte asked about advertising in the Loyola Phoenix. Cindy and Lizzy have reached out to them about placing ads but they never responded, and now their school year is over. Charlotte would like to revisit this in August, and David wants us to reach out to the university’s community relations team about this.

Charlotte also suggested advertising in the News Star. Lizzy will look into this. Cindy thinks this could be a good opportunity to feature Howard Street Brewing, which is finally opening next week after 2 years.

8. 2023 preliminary budget discussion

Charlotte asked if we could do crosswalk art at the Howard/Rogers/Greenview intersection like Clark Street has done recently. Eva is also interested in crosswalk art at Bosworth and Howard - previously proposed it as part of participatory budgeting. Feels it’s needed to help with traffic calming.

Charlotte would also like to see street humps on Rogers - it’s a long stretch with no stop signs and people have been speeding and drag racing there lately.

Eva asked about litter removal, particularly people posting signs on light poles. Cindy shared that we’ve had difficulty staffing the maintenance crew, and even when fully staffed it they only work a few days a week. Commissioners are interested in hiring an outside vendor to expand litter pickup and cleaning service in the SSA. Cindy will reach out to Cleanslate about rates.

Cindy asked commissioners about snow removal.

Everyone was pleased with the vendor we used last year and agreed that the contract should be renewed with no changes to scope of work.

9. Howard Area Community Center Event Sponsorship Request

Cindy had invited a representative from HACC to present the request but it looks like they weren’t able to make it. They’re requesting a $1,000 sponsorship for their annual fundraising event. They’d feature the Howard Street logo on programs and event materials. We sponsored this last year and the year before for the same amount.

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

10. Adjournment
Cindy reminded commissioners again about the beat meeting this evening at Willye White.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, June 15, Zoom. 9am.