

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



Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Charlotte Walters, David Skora, Renee Labrana, Jessie Elsner-Kleye

Members Absent: Mike Smith, Gale Howard

Others Present: Cindy Plante & Sandi Price, RPBA

Lizzy Kreindler, John Harris & Julie Allen, A5 Branding & digital

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 9:07 am.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment

3. Approval of meeting minutes from June

Charlotte moved approval, Jessie seconded.

Approved 3-0

4. 2023 Budget

Cindy presented the draft budget for 2023 - key updates since last meeting are that we've doubled the budget for website and social marketing to account for the addition of the Jarvis Square website & social media, added sidewalk powerwashing four times a year, and doubled the budget for street cleaning crew in order to allow for an afternoon shift as well as coverage on days that Brandon is off. Hopefully this will help address some of the litter problems we've been seeing on weekends and in the afternoons.

These additions do put us over the 5% y-o-y levy increase threshold to require a community meeting, but that can be combined with a scheduled commissioner meeting, so we'll probably do it in August.

Charlotte asked about requirements for notifying businesses and property owners about the community meeting - Cindy said we'll be sending out emails to businesses and property owners, and we'll probably also ask Ald. Hadden to put something in her weekly newsletter. The City also requires us to submit a form saying that we've met with the Alderwoman about SSA budgets.

Jessie asked about maintenance crew - are we keeping the same number of positions or adding positions?

Cindy said that the PT supervisor position is a new position, and our preference is to add positions here, but we're also open to giving more hours to the current people if they want to work some extra hours, especially while we're ramping up and working on getting those positions filled.

Sandi added that hiring and retention has been a challenge for these positions in the past because it's only a part time position.

Charlotte moved approval of the budget, David seconded.

APPROVED.

5. Homeless Shelter Proposal for Clark & Birchwood

Cindy shared an update on the proposal to locate a 72-bed homeless shelter for men in the former Access Health building at Clark & Birchwood. The building itself is in SSA24, but it's across from Gateway Center, which is part of SSA19, so commissioners had asked about putting a discussion item on the agenda about this. Ald. Hadden has already had one community meeting about it a few weeks ago, and there was also a community survey, which according to Kyle got over 1000 responses, which he said were mostly in favor of the proposal so far.

Charlotte is skeptical that there's that much community support for the proposal, and had a conversation with management at Jewel about it - they're already having a lot of problems with crime and shoplifting and are concerned that a homeless shelter across the street will exacerbate this. She also didn't see the community survey and felt like it was hidden and only accessible to people on Ald. Hadden's newsletter.

Sandi added that the original proposal included a drop-in center offering free amenities like showers, meals, internet, and phone charging that would be open to residents of the tent encampment. It seems like this piece is being dropped due to community opposition.

David proposed having the SSA commission draft a letter to Ald. Hadden expressing businesses' concerns about the project and requesting additional outreach and engagement with surrounding businesses. He's especially concerned about ensuring that both independent local businesses as well as national tenants like Jewel and Walgreens have been informed and given the opportunity to comment on it.

Sandi suggested starting by reaching out to Kyle and asking for more information about how they've handled business outreach for this so far, or a list of each business he's visited or contacted about the proposal. This issue is on the agenda for both the Planning & Development committee and SSA24 commissioners this week as well.

Cindy will reach out to Kyle to make that request and copy SSA commissioners.

6. Chalk Howard Street Updates

Cindy will be putting up Chalk Howard flyers at businesses later this week. We've got contracts out to performers and artists, and the signup deadline for food and retail vendors is this Friday 7/15.

7. Jarvis Website

Lizzy presented the updated draft Jarvis website, which is nearly ready to go live.

David asked for some changes to the homepage copy, which Lizzy implemented.

Everyone is ready for the site to go live this week.

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:07.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, August 17, Zoom. 9am.