

Howard Street Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater - 1623 W. Howard

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes



Members Present: David Skora, Jessie Eisner-Kleye, Tim Amos,
Renee Labrana

Members Absent: Charlotte Walters

Others Present: Cindy Plante, RPBA; Kyle Ryan, 49th ward office;

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

2. Public comment

there was no public comment

3. Approval of meeting minutes from April 2023

Jessie moved approval, Tim seconded.
APPROVED

4. Corridor Ambassadors Update

Cindy shared that the grant we applied for for corridor ambassadors for Howard Street was approved for this year. We applied last year and didn't get it but this year we were awarded funding to have corridor ambassadors on Howard Street starting in June - we're working with A Just Harvest to hire a team of folks who will be out on the street weekday afternoons and evenings plus two shifts on weekends to help escort people to and from the train, offer recommendations and directions, and put in 311 requests for things like graffiti, potholes, and broken street lights. We're supposed to launch in June. David asked for the scope of work. Cindy will email it out to commissioners.

Renee asked about a phone number for the ambassador team so people can call to request escort to the train when needed. Cindy will talk to Sandi and Rev. Marilyn about setting up a duty phone. Kyle agrees this is important and wants a phone number to be shared with SSA commissioners and the 49th ward office. David agrees and also wants to distribute flyers introducing the program and sharing ambassadors' contact info.

5. RISE / One Howard Street planning update

Cindy shared with commissioners that the One Howard Street survey is still open and we're also doing in-person survey outreach. Last week we did a session with students at Gale as a part of their Gale Youth Summit event - popular businesses identified by the students included ice cream, barbershops, and a pet store or animal shelter.

Jessie mentioned that she thought a dog daycare would be a great fit for the 1419 Howard storefront. Kyle and Cindy have been in contact with an existing doggie daycare owner that's interested in the area and will suggest this site if the zoning fits.

As part of the One Howard community engagement efforts, the project team will also be convening a series of focus groups around specific themes and concerns, the first one being public safety, which is in the works for later this month - we'll be inviting some of the area's nonprofit and violence prevention orgs and schools plus police from both Chicago and Evanston

and CTA security. Jessie volunteered Becovic's operations managers to participate if space allows since they also work on security and safety issues in the neighborhood.

Kyle added that the 24th district police commander still says he's working to identify officers for foot patrol for Howard Street.

6. Window Murals

Cindy said that one of the common themes emerging from the survey and community engagement on One Howard is an interest in bringing more public art and murals to Howard Street. With the redevelopment proposal for the mostly-empty storefronts at Howard and Paulina still pending, they're likely to remain vacant for the foreseeable future, so we reached out to the new owners and developer team to ask if they'd be open to letting us put up temporary murals in the windows like we did with the vacant storefronts across the street. They're on board, so we reached out to the artist that did the other ones - he's interested in taking on the project and quoted \$3,500 to paint the windows. Cindy talked with him about doing something themed around the One Howard concept, or unity more broadly, with a goal of having it up by summer.

Renee moved approval. Jessie and Tim seconded.

APPROVED.

David wants to ask the artist to include the Howard Street logo somewhere in the art.

Cindy will make that ask.

Renee also asked about having the artist take progress pictures as the mural is being painted.

Cindy will ask - we actually just did this with another mural project in SSA43.

Kyle reminded commissioners that the community survey regarding the apartment proposal is still open and they've only gotten about 100 responses so far - they're hoping to get more and asked that we continue to promote it.

7. Budget brainstorming for 2024

Cindy asked the commissioners to think about any items they'd like to add or change for the 2024 budget. Preliminary feedback we're hearing from One Howard project outreach show a lot of interest in public art and also bike lanes.

Jessie asked about intersection stamps and crosswalk art. Cindy talked with someone at CDOT pretty recently about this - it can be done but it's expensive and it takes a while. A few of these projects have been done elsewhere in RP with grant funding. Crosswalk art might be a bit easier and can be done for \$40-60,000 per intersection. Intersection stamps are considerably more expensive, with costs varying depending on the specific product used - the stuff that was installed at Clark and Chase is the more expensive option because it requires resurfacing the street as part of the installation, but it's considered more durable. The less expensive alternative is a product similar to what's used for regular pavement markings that's applied like an iron-on transfer - this is what was used for the pride flag intersection mural at Morse and Glenwood. Design and permitting for any of the three pavement art options is expected to take at least a year.

David is interested in doing more murals and maybe art on the sidewalk. Proposed a space that could host rotating murals by local artists.

Jessie shared that Becovic plans on funding an extension of the Hello Howard mural at 1419, having it wrap around the front of the building. This will most likely happen in 2024 because of some masonry repairs that need to be done first.

David asked to have Brandon and the crew keep an eye on the garden fence because it's collecting a lot of litter.

Cindy suggested also looking into fence art - has seen this in other communities on construction fence. Might be able to also do something with the garden fence.

8. Website & social media

Cindy will forward slides to commissioners since we're already at 10:00 and shared some draft bus shelter and banner art.

David asked about getting an announcement about the corridor ambassadors at the next Factory show. Tim shared that the next show starts in June..

Meeting adjourned at 1015.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am

Next Meeting: June 21, 2023, zoom