

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 9 am



Commissioners present: Tim Amos, Jessie Eisner-Kleyale, Charlotte Walters,
Renee Labrana

Commissioners absent: Dave Skora

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA
Bethany, A Just Harvest

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:05

2. Public comment

Bethany introduced herself - she's a neighborhood resident and works at A Just Harvest, here because she was interested in learning more about the SSA.

Cindy and commissioners introduced themselves.

3. Approve meeting minutes from May 2024

Jessie moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED.

4. Financial update

Cindy shared updates on financials, which were emailed around to commissioners. There's not much change compared to last month. The balance sheet has total SSA assets at \$84,911, but SSA19 still owes \$80,354 back to RPBA. As far as we know, 2nd installment tax bills will be due at the usual time (August), so we should get more in September, but that's when most of the Chalk Fest expenses will also come due.

Charlotte asked about scheduling powerwashing.

Cindy has not done this because we don't have a contract, and haven't been doing new contracts due to the budgetary limitations. We do currently have contracts for landscaping and Chalk Fest, so that stuff is still moving forward.

Charlotte asked if the property tax reclassifications will mean more money for the SSA? Her building was recently reclassified from the apartment rate to the commercial rate, meaning much

larger tax bills.

As far as Cindy is aware these changes won't mean that the SSA gets more money - we still should get the levy amount which was established in the 2024 budget that was approved last year. That's the number in the budget that the assessor's office divides up between all the properties in the district to determine who owes what. Reclassifications might increase the district's EAV moving forward, which impacts the tax cap, but not the levy itself.

5. 2025 budget brainstorming

a. snow contracts

Cindy got updated numbers from Piersa Snow - they quote \$2100 per visit if we shift to a per-event contract rather than a retainer as we've been doing. They charge extra for salt and supplies on top of that.

Charlotte asked if that was still for a 2" trigger.

Cindy says this is actually for a 1" trigger; 2" was actually more expensive at \$2,700 per visit. The draft budget presented to commissioners includes funding for up to 8 snow service visits based on how many times they've come out in the last two years.

b. lighting

Cindy has requested updated quotes from Illuminight for both Howard and Jarvis for installation of tree lights this summer but hasn't received pricing yet, so numbers in the draft budget are based on prior years' pricing, with Jarvis around \$11,000 and Howard around \$30,000.

Charlotte asked if there are any updates regarding the encampment in the CTA viaduct on Howard. Cindy met with Katie from the City of Evanston earlier this week and asked about this also since the north station entrance is on the Evanston side of Howard Street. They're looking at adding more cameras in the viaduct, cleaning up trash and furniture, and having social services providers do more engagement with the population there. It's their understanding that most of the people there are not homeless, but congregate in the viaduct to hang out and use drugs.

Bethany asked if The Night Ministry was being included in outreach efforts - she used to work there and spoke highly of their street medicine team.

Cindy isn't sure - Trilogy has a presence on Howard Street and the City of Evanston has their own social services staff and other local agencies specializing in substance use and recovery.

c. other ideas

Charlotte and Renee both suggested renting or purchasing powerwashing equipment for the in-house maintenance crew to use rather than hiring a company to do it given the budget limitations - both Clark-Devon and Costco have affordable powerwashers available.

Cindy will bring this up at the RPBA staff meeting on Thursday.

Jessie asked about murals and public art.

Cindy reported that this was a line item that we're increasing in the draft budget in order to start doing more of these projects, as is recommended in the One Howard Street plan.

Cindy is also looking into additional funding sources, including MacArthur Foundation and another state grant for implementation of plans that were funded under the RISE grant program.

6. Chalk Howard Street volunteer signups

Following up on this from last month's meeting, Cindy has set up a signup form on SignupGenius that will be shared with commissioners via email - there will be 2 hour shifts for folks to sign up to help at the RPBA tent during the event.

7. 2024 key dates

Cindy reminded commissioners that we have to shift the July meeting earlier in the month to meet the City's deadline for 2025 budgets - we'll be meeting on July 10. Chalk Howard Street is scheduled for August 24. This weekend the Taste of Chicago pop-up festival is being held in Touhy Park on Saturday. SSA19 businesses Badou and Charmers Cafe are participating as vendors.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, Factory Theater, 9am.