

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Jessie Eisner-Kleyle, Dave Skora, Charlotte Walters

Renee Labrana, Tim Amos

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA

Kyle Ryan, 49th Ward

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:05

2. Public comment

Renee asked if there were any updates on the Beachview Liquor store or if anybody's heard anything about Jarvis Grill. Cind has not. Kyle said that the Department of Buildings may be looking at the liquor store building due to reports of squatters.

Cindy hasn't heard anything about construction or a potential ownership change at Jarvis Grill but has heard about the new bookstore opening on Jarvis. Renee added that the bookstore is looking at an October opening, but has heard that the storefront across from Anto may have been leased to a church.

3. Approve meeting minutes from July 2024

Renee moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED 5-0.

4. Financial update

Cindy presented year to date financials - SSA19 received some tax proceeds in July, ahead of when we were expecting to receive money after the 2nd installment tax deadline in August.

Since this put us in a better financial position, we were able to schedule the sidewalk powerwashing ahead of Chalk Howard Street, and will take up banners again after Chalk Howard.

5. One Howard Street updates

Cindy shared that while it may not look like much is happening, RPBA and the City of Evanston have been working on applying for funding - Evanston was the lead applicant on our application for the state's grant program for implementation of plans funded by the previous RISE grant

program, and Cindy is about to submit an application to the MacArthur Foundation, which they actually invited us to apply for. In the meantime, Evanston is moving forward on the Callan Plaza project recommended in the plan, and has awarded a contract for design work. They've also done an RFP for decorative lights under all CTA and Metra viaducts in their jurisdiction, including the two on Howard Street. They shared a link to proposals but Cindy hasn't looked at them yet and isn't sure on specifics of the selection process or timeline but will ask Kyle said that Housing For All was passed over again for IHDA tax credits for the Howard and Paulina project. Only one project in Chicago got selected in this round. They plan to try again at the 4% level instead of 9%. National register is still moving forward for the Warner Building. The 49th ward is also planning to hold an open house on Howard Street planning with RPBA, Evanston, and DPD sometime in September or October - DPD is looking at proactively upzoning Howard Street.

Cindy asked if they're looking to shift to C or just a higher B zoning. Kyle says it will still be B.

Kyle also said that the city is planning to release an RFP for development of the Howard/Ashland site on October 1. They're calling for mixed use, with 20-30% affordable, and high density on the north side of the lot closest to Howard Street. At the south side of the lot they're calling for low-rise co-op housing.

Charlotte asked about how tall a potential building on the site could be. Kyle says it could be up to 20 stories. The survey for another development proposal on Sheridan just closed after getting more responses than any other development proposal survey they've done to date, and there wasn't a clear majority on any of the responses - about 30% oppose the proposal, 30% support it, 10% oppose any development on the site at all, and the rest are OK with development but want something smaller.

Cindy asked about potentially relocating the Hello Howard garden to the Bank of America site when the time comes for development on Howard and Ashland. Kyle said the RFP is including language to maintain garden space.

6. Chalk Howard updates

Cindy reported that the street closure will start Friday morning for setup, and she's been putting handbills under windshield wipers to let people know not to park there Friday. Streets and San will also be posting no parking signage, and Cindy has reached out to CTA to get the word out to their staff.

Jessie asked about what volunteers will need to do. Cindy will be sending out an email tomorrow to everybody that signed up for volunteer shifts, but it will mostly be sales and check-ins for amateur chalk squares.

Kyle said that the 49th ward's annual back to school event will be going on at the same time as Chalk Howard Street at Willye White Park, which should hopefully bring additional foot traffic to the area.

Cindy asked if they're doing a bounce house in the park - Kyle says they are.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, August 21, Factory Theater, 9am.