

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Dave Skora, Renee Labrana, Tim Amos

Commissioners absent: Charlotte Walters

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA
Logan, Loyola student

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:12

2. Public comment

Introductions - Logan is a senior majoring in poli sci at Loyola here to observe the meeting for a paper he's working on. Cindy and commissioners introduced themselves.

Cindy added that Kyle wasn't able to be here today because he's downtown for the City Council meeting, and Jessie Eisner-Kleye has resigned from the commission, so we now have an additional vacancy to fill. Renee suggested reaching out to Kate Harding, who's getting ready to open a book shop on Jarvis and might be interested. David suggested asking the owner of RP Taproom. Cindy will follow up and see if they're interested.

3. Approve meeting minutes from August 2024

Renee moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED 3-0.

4. Financial update

Cindy presented year to date financials, which were emailed to commissioners earlier this week.

- SSA19 received some tax proceeds in July and August as expected. This has put us in the black temporarily, but we do have bills coming for Chalk Howard Street still, as well as projects that had been deferred due to the shortfall, like banners (expected to be about \$11,000) and tree lights (\$36,000 for Howard street plus another \$12,000 for Jarvis).

David asked if the scope of work for lights was including his block again this year. Cindy said the scope for his block will remain the same (50% of trees) since there's only one business between Greenview and Sheridan. The receptacles between Popeyes and Public Storage were tested and seem to be working now, so we did add that block back to the scope. It was taken out last year due to the lack of reliable power and revenue shortfall, but businesses over there were unhappy with it, so it's been added back in now that power access is more reliable.

5. One Howard Street updates

Cindy shared that the One Howard plan is being honored with an award next week at the state American Planning Association conference. Also, the City is reportedly going to issue an RFP for the Howard & Ashland site on October 1, calling for mixed-income housing and retention of a portion of the community garden space.

Evanston is moving forward on Callan Plaza plans and has already had a few community meetings about it. They're also working on gateway signage and lights.

RPBA will be participating in a Howard Street development open house on October 15 with the 49th ward, DPD, and the developer working on the Howard Paulina site. This is being held in the auditorium at Gale School at 7pm, with each group having a table set up for people to come around and talk about each project. RPBA's will be focused on One Howard Street and may include reps from Evanston to talk about the plan implementation projects they're working on. DPD will talk about zoning and the Howard/Ashland RFP. it won't be a lecture/slide deck format - people will be able to come and go at their own pace.

6. Public Way updates

a. Banners

Cindy is currently waiting on an updated banner placement diagram and list from A5, which is needed because we're shifting banners to Liberty Flag & Banner. Once the new placement diagram is done banners will be ordered and scheduled for installation. This

is the same vendor that did the banners on the Evanston side of the street that were installed recently.

b. Tree lights

Cindy doesn't have a specific date for installation, but the contract for tree lights was signed last week. Renee asked if this includes Jarvis and Cindy said it does.

c. 2024-25 snow

Cindy shared that the snow contract was also signed last week - based on discussion at previous meetings and the 2025 budget, we've shifted to per-push pricing for this year, with a 1" trigger. We budgeted for up to 8 snow removal visits.

7. Adjournment

David asked to add an agenda item to next month's agenda item to discuss public art. He would like to do additional art on vacant storefront windows next year.

Cindy will include this next month but reminded commissioners that this requires cooperation and consent from building owners, which isn't always forthcoming, particularly with regard to empty storefronts in gateway center and under the CTA tracks.

Cindy also hopes to have more information soon on a new grant program for security upgrades at local businesses. This will be coming from state funding secured by Rep. Kelly Cassidy, and details are still being worked out.

David asked if the security program will include design guidelines for security shutters. Cindy isn't sure yet but probably. Other security expenses like cameras and lighting will probably also be eligible.

Meeting adjourned at 10:06 am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, Factory Theater, 9am.