

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Dave Skora, Tim Amos, Charlotte Walters (joining by phone)

Commissioners absent: Renee Labrana

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA
Kyle Ryan, 49th ward

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:12

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approve meeting minutes from September 2024

Charlotte moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED 3-0.

4. Financial update

Cindy gave a summary of the YTD financials as of 10/1 which were emailed to commissioners ahead of the meeting.

5. Criminal damage repair rebates

a. Moyony Fresh

Cindy presented the request from Moyony Fresh market on Jarvis - they've had a few break-ins where someone smashed the front door after hours. They've submitted a police report and repair receipts for one of the incidents. The total cost to replace the glass door was \$1400, so the 50% rebate request is for \$700. They've also installed a grate to prevent this in the future.

Charlotte moved approval, Tim seconded.

Approved 3-0

b. Curls & Co

Cindy was hoping to take a vote on this today and has the police report but is missing repair receipts, so this will shift to the November agenda.

Cindy says that the 14th district security grants for business should be rolling out at some point before the end of the year.

6. One Howard Street updates / Howard Street Development Open House

Cindy and Kyle were at the Howard Street development open house last night, and David also attended. Housing for All came to talk about the Howard/Paulina redevelopment project and DPD sent representatives to talk about the updated zoning and the Howard/Ashland RFP. RPBA and the City of Evanston were there to talk about One Howard updates. Lots of people from the community garden attended because they're wary of the RFP and potential loss of garden space. There were some good conversations about ideas for future projects and we are looking at potential alternative sites for community garden plots.

Kyle added that Housing for All has made changes to their proposal for Howard and Paulina, including reducing the total number of units but increasing building height and retaining the parking lot on the north side of the site. They've also expressed an interest in submitting a proposal for the Howard/Ashland site.

David asked if the state rep and state senator were supportive of their IHDA application. Kyle says yes.

Both Cindy and Kyle heard from people concerned about the Beachview Liquors building - as far as we know the city is pursuing litigation against the building owner for building violations.

Tim asked about the WingMan space. Kyle said that last he'd heard Taco Bell was talking with DPD about opening there, but the City wants the drive through window moved to the rear of the building.

Kyle also said that the proposed zoning framework updates is similar to what was done recently with Western Avenue to try to make it easier to redevelop and repurpose underutilized buildings by shifting to B3-3 zoning. This allows live-work units on the ground floor.

7. Public Art

a. Banners

Cindy reported that a contract has been signed with Liberty Flag & Banner, and new

banners have been ordered but we don't have an installation date yet. In the meantime, tree lights were installed earlier this month.

b. 2025 Chicago Sculpture exhibit

Cindy asked commissioners about having SSA19 participate in the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit next year. The cost is \$4,000 to have a sculpture installed for 2 years, and the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit organization provides for installation and takes care of permitting and insurance. SSA19 had done one of these previously with a sculpture that was installed at the corner of Clark and Howard. We would need to sign up by early December at the latest to be part of the 2025 exhibit.

David was skeptical about the financial outlay given budget constraints, and wasn't impressed with the project last time it was done. The location didn't make sense and the art itself didn't seem relevant to the community - he hadn't heard any positive feedback about it and felt it wasn't meaningful or a worthwhile use of funds.

Charlotte disagreed and pointed out that since this is a citywide exhibit it could help attract visitors to the area.

Cindy added that the location doesn't need to remain the same - we could ask for it to be installed closer to the train station, or other sidewalk space. It doesn't have to be in the Bank of America park space again. If we wanted to we could also request to do more than one if people are up for it.

Kyle asked about insurance coverage for things like vandalism.

Cindy said that they include the insurance coverage.

David wants to see more examples of other sculptures installed as part of this program, but would rather use limited funding for more murals.

Tim proposed pushing this item back to the November meeting to allow for more time to consider it.

Charlotte asked if they offer any sort of bulk discount for doing more than one sculpture.

Kyle asked if it would be possible to rotate them around to different sites if other Rogers Park SSAs also opt in for 2025.

Cindy will reach out to CSE and ask, and will keep this on the agenda for November.

c. **2025 murals**

David asked about doing more murals on CTA viaducts. Kyle advised against this for the time being because CTA will be remodeling a lot of these facilities soon as the next phase of RPM moves north. Many of the embankment walls that have murals currently will probably be removed like they were in Edgewater and Uptown.

Cindy reached out to Lenice since she had expressed an interest in doing murals on the banquet hall building - based on recent conversations it sounds like she's still interested and may know some interested artists. We could identify a theme and issue an RFP for it similar to what was done on Clark Street last year. The SSA commission, building owner, and RPBA select a winner from submitted proposals.

Kyle suggested a Caribbean theme for this building.

David asked about preservation and restoration of the mural at Sheridan and Howard.

Cindy isn't sure that it really needs any additional work - since much of it is above street level it's held up pretty well. RPBA had been in contact with the artist earlier this year about extending the mural around to the front of the building, but there wasn't funding available to move it forward.

David also asked about doing a mural on the north wall of the Warner Building on Paulina. Cindy has been in contact with the owner of this building about potentially redoing the temporary window art on the Howard Street side, but a mural on the Warner Building is probably premature at this point since there will most likely be construction going on there soon. Kyle added that the Warner Building was also recently placed on the national register of historic places, so the historic designation might also limit the ability to do a mural there.

Tim suggested trying to do something on the alley in the 1600 block of Howard - maybe having art there would discourage people from using the alley for bathroom purposes.

Cindy will keep this on the agenda for November to continue fleshing out a possible RFP.

8. Adjournment

Tim shared that Factory Theater has a new show opening this weekend.

Cindy shared that Willye White Trunk or Treat is happening on Thursday 10/31 from 3-5. If anyone's organization wants to get involved, reach out to Irma at the Park District.

Jarvis Square is also hosting the Halloween family fest on the 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, Factory Theater, 9am.