

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Dave Skora, Tim Amos, Charlotte Walters, Renee Labrana

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

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:06

2. Public comment

Cindy is still looking to fill commissioner vacancies following Jessie's departure.

3. Approve meeting minutes from October 2024

Charlotte moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED 4-0.

4. Financial update

Cindy gave a summary of the YTD financials as of 10/1 which were emailed to commissioners ahead of the meeting. As of 10/31 we've received about 65% of the approved levy, and are under budget or on target in all major budget categories except for sustainability, which only includes funding for the dumpster used by maintenance staff. We're in the process of renegotiating dumpster contracts. David asked if this is better than last year. Cindy says yes - it helps that tax deadlines weren't delayed or moved this time.

David brought up the tax sale list - most of the properties appearing on the list for our ward are in SSA19. Cindy has been in contact with one owner-occupied business that's on the list - he's aware of it and taking steps to pursue financing to clear the tax debt. Other than providing technical assistance and capital access help, there's not much we can really do. Kyle added that the 49th ward office is also restricted from getting involved with tax debt issues. Charlotte is also frustrated with property tax increases and reclassifications, which have been a hardship for her business.

5. Criminal damage repair rebates

Cindy left this on the agenda in hopes that we might get submissions from businesses impacted by recent shootings and break-ins, but nobody has submitted applications. The only pending one was for replacement of the door at RPH.

Charlotte plans to apply to replace a damaged window at the next meeting.

6. Event sponsorship request for Shop Jarvis Square on 12/7/24

Cindy presented an event sponsorship request from Annie and Carrie at Charmers for \$800 for the annual Shop Jarvis Square holiday bazaar on 12/7. The \$800 will fund carolers and a santa. In previous years this has been covered by the alfresco funting, which has since been exhausted.

Charlotte moved approval. David 2nded. Renee abstained.

Approved 3-1-0

7. Public Art

a. 2025 Chicago Sculpture exhibit

Cindy shared responses to questions from last meeting with commissioners via email - sculptures are unable to be moved or rotated around during the exhibition, and sponsors do get to participate in the jury to select sculptures for installation.

David still feels that this isn't a worthwhile use of limited funds and is concerned that the artists aren't local to the neighborhood, and would rather focus on murals.

Charlotte is in favor of the project, particularly since the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit organization handles all insurance and permitting and assists with marketing citywide.

Tim agreed. Renee suggested promoting this on social media - encourage people to post photos with the sculptures and tag us, possibly with giftcard raffles for participants.

David asked if there are any sites in SSA19 that could be part of Open House Chicago.

Charlotte said Lost Eras was part of it or something similar one year. Cindy couldn't think of anything other than possibly the CTA garage or maybe the Warner Building, which Kyle said wasn't in visitor-friendly condition currently as it's waiting to be redeveloped.

David asked how sites get selected for inclusion in OHC. Neither Cindy nor Kyle know

what the process is for this.

Charlotte asked about potential locations for Chicago Sculpture Exhibit installations - suggested the Howard/Greenview intersection. Renee is also interested in hosting one on Jarvis, which could also be installed along Greenview. Tim was in favor of applying to sponsor two in order to allow for multiple locations. Cindy will list these two sites as our preferred locations, and possibly also the corner of Howard and Paulina near the CTA bus terminal as a backup if there's a problem with these.

Charlotte moved approval, Tim seconded.

Approved 3-1 (David voted no)

b. 2025 murals

David asked about restoring the existing mural or commissioning a new one in the CTA viaduct on Rogers. Cindy's not sure if this was originally an SSA project or something funded by PB. Kyle's not sure either, but cautioned against investing heavily in murals along CTA viaducts now due to upcoming Red Purple Modernization construction - we're not sure if these walls and viaducts will continue to exist if CTA reconstructs the track the same way they have in Uptown and Edgewater.

Cindy will invite Ana Bermudez to join us for the January meeting to continue the discussion from last meeting about a potential mural RFP, since she's the main point of contact at RPBA for murals and public art projects. RPBA had previously been in contact with Becovic and the original artist of the Hello Howard mural at Howard and Sheridan about extending the artwork to the north facade of that building, but at the time we didn't have the funding to move it forward. We could revisit this in 2025. Lenice Levy had also expressed interest in working with us on a mural project at her building on 2017 W. Howard. Kyle had a similar conversation with her, and she's particularly interested in art that would reflect or honor the area's Caribbean heritage.

Charlotte and David like the idea of doing something west of Clark, particularly if both sites for the sculpture installation will be on the eastern side of the district.

8. Camera trailer

Based on feedback from commissioners on this and other SSAs, Cindy has started getting quotes for purchase or lease of a camera trailer similar to the one the 24th district police have been using - they're around the same price to purchase - \$28-30,000, plus \$150 a month thereafter for mobile data and cloud storage software. SSA24 has expressed interest in potentially buying one, and RPBA has a meeting coming up soon with CPD's 24th district to discuss it.

Kyle reported that the ones CPD buys cost \$120,000. The CPD one is currently on Paulina facing the entrance to the CTA station, but has also popped up this year on Morse, Devon, and near Pottawattomie Park. Cindy added that at a meeting last week the commander shared that the 24th used to have two of these, but headquarters can borrow them at any time for events downtown - they used one of ours for an event at the United Center recently and it was damaged, so now the 24th district only has 1.

Charlotte asked how this compares to costs for installation of regular pod cameras on utility poles. Cindy reported that the most recent time we've done a project like that, the cost was \$80,000 for 3 cameras that SSA43 funded on Devon Avenue - these were basic cameras without license plate recognition. There's not much we can do about pricing because CPD/OEMC require these to be purchased through an existing contract with Motorola.

Charlotte would prefer to focus on wired cameras installed on buildings, which in her experience seem more cost effective.

Renee asked about the status of the 14th district grant program through Rep. Cassidy's office. Cindy isn't involved in the meetings, but colleagues at RPBA are working with Rep. Cassidy's office on ironing out details as to program requirements and how the application process will work - it hasn't launched yet, but we'll be promoting it pretty heavily to businesses once it does.

9. Adjournment

Charlotte asked about repairs to the clock at the corner of Howard and Greenview. Kyle has also getting calls at the ward office about the clock. Cindy reported that Brandon has been out to

work on the clock - it was reset last week for Daylight Savings Time but Cindy will ask him to take a look at it again if it's still off or stuck.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: All-SSA annual meeting & breakfast, Thursday 12/12