

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Tim Amos, Charlotte Walters , Renee Labrana

Commissioners absent: Dave Skora

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA
Kyle Ryan, 49th ward
Jenni Smith - pending commissioner

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:09

2. Public comment

Charlotte asked about the status of repairs to the clock at Howard and Greenview.

Cindy said Brandon attempted to reset it but that didn't work, and it needs parts replaced. We have to have a contractor out to change out parts, CDOT has to approve, and it's going to be a while but we're trying.

3. Approve meeting minutes from November 2024

Renee moved approval, Tim seconded.

APPROVED 3-0.

4. Financial update

Cindy shared 2024 financials as of last week - these aren't final and won't be until audit time because there are still 2024 bills coming in and payments pending. We did get some additional money in December.

5. Lost Eras Criminal damage repair rebates

Charlotte shared the police report for an incident in 2024 where somebody knocked out a window of her storefront. She doesn't yet have a receipt for the repair because her glass guy retired or moved and she's looking for a new one. She doesn't expect the repair to cost more than a few hundred dollars. Renee offered to text her contact info for the glass repair person she uses. Cindy can also send some referrals for this.

Renee moved approval of a repair rebate contingent on Charlotte submitting the required receipt for the work. Tim seconded.

Approved 2-1-0 with Charlotte abstaining.

6. Chalk Howard Street 2025

Cindy and Sandi learned on Thursday that Star Events is going out of business, which means we now have to find a new event company to assist with Chalk Howard Street. We're working on an RFP that we plan to send out soon and have been in contact with other chambers to find out who they're using. That list includes Criterion Events, Duff, and Bash, as well as Amdur Productions and Special Events Management. We're hoping to have proposals to share with the group at the February meeting. In the meantime, the event is still tentatively scheduled for August 23.

7. Murals

Cindy shared that RPBA got a grant to fund implementation of public art recommendations in the One Howard Street plan, so we're shifting murals to that funding source instead of the SSA. We've been in contact with Lenice and Fish Keg about including their walls in a mural RFP this year, and trying to get Becovic to sign off on the extension of the existing Hello Howard mural to the front of the parking garage building at 1419 W Howard. Evanston is also planning to move forward with a call for mural proposals for several sites on their side of the street, which they're using their own funding to install.

8. Adjournment

Kyle shared that the developer proposing apartments on Sheridan came back with a revised proposal that reduced the number of units and increased the number of parking spaces based on community feedback. This new proposal was shared with immediate neighbors, and they still oppose the development, so Ald. Hadden most likely won't support a zoning change for the site. He will still be free to build up to the maximum number of units allowed by the current zoning, and won't be required to include any affordable units.

Kyle also said that proactive upzoning on Howard is moving forward for B3-5, which will allow

for buildings up to 5-6 stories. Cindy asked if this will also change the zoning of the handful of buildings that are currently zoned C - do they stay C or do they get downzoned to B3-5? Kyle isn't sure but will look into it and asked Cindy to send the specific addresses.

Charlotte mentioned that the Evanston Roundtable had a story recently about Evanston's efforts to clear out the encampment under the CTA viaduct.

Cindy added that Asian Diet restaurant is for sale - this is 2049 W Howard where Badou used to be located before his most recent move.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: February 19, 2025