

Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 9 am

Commissioners present: Tim Amos, Dave Skora, Charlotte Walters, Jenni Smith

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA
Zach Joseph, 49th Ward

1. Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:01am

2. Public Comment

Tim shared that Factory Theater's lease was extended for another year, and they'll be sharing the space with Strawdog Theater Company.

Charlotte asked for an update on the Chicago Sculpture Exhibit installation at Howard and Paulina.

Cindy heard back from CSE that the artist retrieved the remains of the statue and is trying to restore it. They have advised us that they're not comfortable installing this or any sculpture at Howard and Paulina in the future based on the vandalism as well as harassment encountered by both the artist and the installation crew when they were on site to install and take down the piece. In the event that the artist is able to restore it, they've asked for potential alternative sites. Charlotte doesn't want the sculpture put back on Howard Street regardless of location because so many people in the community found it offensive.

Jenny reported that she and other neighbors have been seeing an increase in drug use around Jarvis involving the use of glass pipes. Several employees also were robbed on the way home from work by people hanging around and hiding between the pillars under the CTA viaduct on Greenview and asked if anything could be done about lighting or infrastructure in this area. Zach will bring this up to Ald. Hadden and the 24th district police. Cindy asked if it would be possible to install the same kind of horizontal railings between the pilings that are installed by the Howard/Paulina viaduct.

Charlotte added that Tracy has also returned to the area after a long absence. Jenni has seen her around too and reminded her that she's been banned by her business and others; she's

been cooperative on this so far, and hasn't violated any restraining orders, but they will pursue charges if that changes.

3. Approve meeting minutes from July 2025

Tim moved approval, Jenni seconded.

Approved 4-0

4. 2025 YTD financials update

Cindy shared financials with commissioners via email.

5. 2025-2026 snow contract

Cindy reported that our snow removal company from last year is asking about contract renewal.

Last year was our first time with a per-visit contract and it was a substantial savings over the retainer-based contracts we've had in previous years.

Charlotte moved to approve renewal of the snow contract. Dave seconded.

Approved 4-0

6. Jarvis Rocky Horror film licensing

Cindy presented the request to sponsor licensing costs for the annual outdoor Rocky Horror event at Jarvis Square on October 11. The cost is \$775. This is actually lower than last year, when it was being paid out of the alfresco grant, which has since expired.

Charlotte moved approval. Tim seconded.

Approved 4-0

7. H statue restoration

Cindy presented several design options for repainting of the H statue at Howard and Greenview.

Dave would like to make sure this includes some sort of anti-graffiti coating. Cindy will talk to Ana about this.

Charlotte moved approval of the floral design on the black background. Tim seconded.

Approved 4-0

8. Public Way & One Howard updates

a. Willye White End-of-Summer-Bash & 25th anniversary

Cindy provided a summary of plans for the event, which is scheduled for Saturday 8/23.

This is being paid for from grant funding and not the SSA.

b. Intersection art project

Cindy reported that the project has been delayed due to the revelation that the Howard/Rogers/Greenview intersection is actually IDOT right-of-way, so CDOT isn't able to approve it. We're reaching out to the state to inquire about their process and whether we can get them to sign off. We are still moving forward with intersection art for Paulina and CDOT is reviewing it.

c. Murals

Cindy reported that the mural at Fish Keg is finished and work is still wrapping up at Seven Star. We plan to include both sites on the q3 ribbon cutting schedule once a date is selected.

Charlotte asked if it would be possible to have the mural in the metra viaduct redone or replaced, as the condition of the wall is deteriorating.

Dave agreed that it's a good idea but should wait until the lighting project is completed.

d. Viaduct Lighting

Cindy shared slides of the design concepts that the Evanston team has developed for the viaduct lighting project, including the Metra and CTA bridges on Howard. They have asked us to share feedback on these, and will be scheduling another stakeholder meeting soon.

Dave was disappointed with the Howard CTA design and would like to see brighter colors; it feels lacking especially compared to the proposed designs for the Davis and Main Street viaducts that were also shown in the packet. He'd like to see something more like these. Tim and Charlotte agreed, they'd like to see different colors and better lighting. Dave praised the efforts of the new police commander at increasing police presence around the CTA station this summer and feels that it is making a difference.

Cindy will pass this feedback along to the City of Evanston and will let everyone know when there's a date for another meeting on viaduct lighting.

9. Key dates

Cindy encouraged commissioners to stop by the Willye White event on Saturday, and the annual SSA breakfast is scheduled for December 11 and will be held in Devon Ave SSA43 this year

10. Adjournment

Charlotte asked Cindy to reach out to Becovic about having someone from their team join the SSA commission. Cindy agreed but cautioned that neither she nor Sandi have had much success getting them to respond to us lately.

Charlotte asked about the Beachview Liquors building - in addition to being an eyesore, it's a public safety hazard. Jenni asked if the City can issue tickets and have it boarded up.

Zach will ask about having it boarded up. Cindy reported that the last update she'd heard on it was that the city did issue tickets to the property owner and he's disputing them, so it's tied up in litigation.

Jenni reported that she found out that the pylon kiosk by the Jarvis station was installed by the owners of the Elite on Jarvis building, which is also currently for sale. Cindy will reach out to them about having the SSA restore and update the pylon sign and start getting quotes.

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: September 17, 2025