

SSA19 Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025; 9am
Factory Theater, 1623 W. Howard

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

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA;
Jason Kaiser, Howard & Evanston Community Center
Zach Joseph, 49th ward office



Minutes

1. **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am
Commissioners & attendees introduced themselves

2. **Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Tim moved approval; Charlotte seconded
Approved 4-0

3. **Financial update**

Cindy provided a summary of the financials as of September 30, which have been shared with commissioners via email. We still don't know when Cook County will be issuing second installment tax bills for this year, meaning the only money taken in has been small amounts of late/loss collections. Without those we've only received about 43% of our approved levy for this year and have very little money in the bank.

4. **Holiday lights**

Cindy asked our lighting vendor to prepare several potential scenarios for tree lights this year. The cost for the full scope of work doing all the trees on Howard that have power was \$38,000; he also provided an option to do half the trees for \$22,000. Lighting the 7 trees on Jarvis was \$12,000. Typically we get these put up in October, due in part to the goal of keeping both sides of the street cohesive when Evanston installs theirs. We may not be able to do so this year because of the delayed tax collections.

Jenni asked if the Jarvis businesses could sponsor the installation on more trees in addition to the 7 Jarvis trees in the quote; lighting in the winter is really important to them for safety and visibility from the CTA. Cindy will follow up with Sandi about this.

David wants to prioritize doing at least some tree lights on Howard for public safety reasons since it's getting darker earlier.

Commissioners generally agreed to support the narrower scope of work if necessary but would prefer to do all the trees if at all possible. Cindy will confer with Sandi next week and see if we can find a solution for this.

5. **Jarvis full moon family fest sponsorship**

Cindy presented the proposal from Charmers for sponsorship of the annual family Halloween event. The request is for \$1050 to pay for facepainting, stilt walker, and live music. This is one of several that we'd previously been sponsoring with grant funds and budgeted to shift to the SSA for this year.

Jason and Zach asked for the promotional materials for this event to help promote; Cindy will send around the poster when she gets it.

David asked if there are any other Jarvis events, or is this the last one of the year?

Jenni said after this the only remaining Jarvis expenses this year would be lights and potentially carolers for the Shop Jarvis Holiday Market on 12/5.

Charlotte moved approval; Tim seconded.
Approved 4-0

6. **Maintenance Crew longevity pay**

Cindy is bringing this proposal to all the SS's in RPBA's service area which would adopt a policy that members of the maintenance crew who stay on the job longer than 6 months would get an additional \$1/hr pay increase over minimum wage. These positions are part time and include physically-demanding outdoor work, so there's often a lot of turnover. We want to recognize and retain the people that do stay around, and we anticipate that it probably still won't be that many people that this would apply to.

David moved approval; Tim seconded.
Approved 4-0

7. **Jarvis Kiosk**

Cindy has made contact with the owners of Elite on Jarvis - they do own the pylon signage next to the train tracks. They're open to updating it but want to do any painting of the structure in-house at the auto shop, which is what has been done previously.

8. **One Howard updates**

Charlotte asked Cindy for an update on the intersection art project. Cindy replied that the Paulina project design is done and has been sent to CDOT; we still need technical drawings and specifications from Gallagher. IDOT did say no to installation on the Howard/Rogers/Greenview intersection, but indicated that they may be open to a jurisdictional transfer of the intersection to CDOT.

Zach hasn't gotten to talk with CDOT about jurisdictional transfer yet but will follow up.

Charlotte and David said that they'd both been hearing positive feedback from neighbors regarding the repainted and decorated H statue at Howard/Rogers/Greenview.

Charlotte added that the updated design also pairs well with the butterfly sculpture installed across the street.

9. Public Comment

David asked Zach for a status update on the Willye White splash pad project; we want to keep the pressure on the park district to get it done.

Zach agreed and said they're planning for installation sometime in 2026.

Cindy added that the Housing for All development at Howard and Paulina is also scheduled to begin construction in 2026.

Charlotte asked about the Howard/Ashland site.

Zach said that the City's RFP drew 2 proposals, but the city rejected both. Cindy asked if there were any plans to do a new RFP; Zach will ask about this again at his next meeting with DPD officials.

Cindy shared that the former Freddie's and US Housewares storefronts have been leased to American Islamic College, and they expect to be open by the end of the year. They have about 60 students total and hope to expand over time.

Charlotte asked about a new development at Jonquil and Marshfield; neither Cindy nor Zach was aware of this but will look into it.

Cindy shared that the 24th police district is doing their annual community strategic planning meetings over the next few weeks; the first one is next week at Warren Park; Cindy plans to attend the one on November 18 at CMSA and will send around the flyer if anyone else is interested in attending.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was called to order at 10:03am

Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov 19, 2025