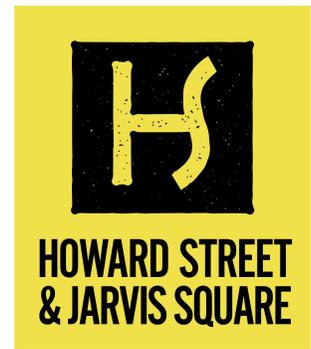


Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes



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

Charlotte Walters

Others present: Cindy Plante, RPBA

Jason Kaiser, Howard & Evanston Community Center (prospective commissioner)

1. Call to order

a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:08am

2. Public comment

Jenni shared that she's working with the Glenwood Avenue Arts District team on promoting a larger pride event to replace Pride North, which will include both Glenwood and Jarvis.

Northside Queer Pride's main date will be the same as the parade, June 28, and family pride on Jarvis will be Saturday the 27th. The next planning meeting is February 3 at RP Social. The Jarvis businesses are also planning to add a Monday Night Market to the calendar.

Dave asked about Caribbean Carnival. Cindy said the last she heard they were planning on doing it again but pushing the date later in the spring for warmer weather.

Dave asked if anybody has heard anything about new businesses moving into the Wedge building at Rogers and Greenview, as it looks like there is facade work going on. Cindy hasn't heard anything but is aware of the work and has listing flyers for two of the smaller storefront spaces.

3. Approve meeting minutes from last meeting

Charlotte moved to approve the minutes. Tim seconded.

Approved 4-0

4. 2025 YTD Financials update

Balance sheets were provided to commissioners via email. Cindy shared that RPBA still has not yet received the tax proceeds that were due on 12/31. At a meeting last week we were told that we should start getting that money soon, but it has yet to turn up, and this year's first installment tax bills are also being delayed. As a result, SSA19 only has a few hundred dollars in the bank at the moment. The good news is that our district EAV actually increased in spite of the increased commercial vacancy in the district, most likely because several buildings have sold in the last few years. RPBA is also using a different firm for annual audits this year due to funding requirements for one of our other programs. The new auditor is aware of all the issues with property tax delays and attended the meeting with DPD that we were at last week about this.

5. Jarvis alfresco planters

Jenni had reached out to Cindy to ask about removing two of the six wood planter boxes installed as part of Jarvis Alfresco, as doing so will create more space for tents and vendors at Jarvis events and festivals. Cindy added that this will also reduce landscaping expenses. We're putting this question before the SSA commissioners since the SSA is now responsible for maintenance of the alfresco space.

Charlotte asked if the soil in the planters will be made available to gardeners or otherwise repurposed.

Jenni shared that the barrel planters that were previously installed on Glenwood have been moved to Jarvis for use as additional vehicle barricades, and they plan to use the soil to put planters in the barrels.

Cindy added that RPBA has talked with the 49th ward about infrastructure upgrades to make the alfresco street closure more permanent in the future, and they are open to this but funding will need to be identified.

Jenni said that she also saw a city closure notice on Jarvis Grill recently.

Charlotte moved to approve removal of the two Jarvis planters. Tim seconded.

APPROVED 4-0.

6. Public Way & One Howard updates

a. Chalk Howard Street

Despite the ongoing issues with tax collection, Cindy and Sandi are still looking for ways to bring back some version of Chalk Howard Street, and have put a save-the-date on the calendar for August 22. There is some grant funding that can help to pay for this.

Dave would like to see more programming around the 25th anniversary of the Willye White Playground, and noted that the celebration held last August was successful.

Jason agreed. Dave suggested creating 25th anniversary branding and installing a vinyl banner on the park fence. Cindy will look into this, though funding continues to be scarce at this time; she is talking with the Park Advisory Council about putting additional summer movies on the calendar this year, including rescheduling one that was rained out in September.

Jason asked if the 8/22 date has been shared with the North of Howard Together group yet; Cindy replied that it hasn't but will talk with Ann about adding it to the February meeting.

b. Kiosks

Cindy met with the manufacturer that is making wayfinding kiosks for the Evanston side of Howard Street; there was a site visit the week before Christmas. We're looking at installing one near the CTA terminal at Howard and Paulina where the CSE sculpture was last year, and potentially a second one either near the field house or at the Howard/Rogers Greenview corner. Dave has some concerns about maintenance and potential vandalism and asked to see the drawings. Cindy will share these again via email.

c. Willye White Trunk or Treat

Cindy meant to take this off the agenda since this event is over, though it was well-attended and will most likely be repeated in 2026.

d. Intersection art project

Cindy shared that this was another One Howard Street project being funded by the MacArthur Grant; we're waiting on updated drawings to submit for permitting for installation this summer at Paulina and Clark Street, which is taking the place of Rogers/Greenview.

e. Viaduct lighting

Evanston is still planning to move forward on decorative lighting in the CTA and Metra viaducts. The designer has assured us that the design for the Howard CTA viaduct will be able to have colors changed on a seasonal basis and will include more texture and interest. Charlotte noted that additional lights were installed on the Evanston side of the viaduct and they do seem to be helping to disrupt some of the loitering.

Charlotte also asked about the possibility of restoring or replacing the existing murals on the metra viaduct, which have fallen into disrepair. Cindy will bring this up at her next meeting with Evanston and asked if people would prefer a restoration or replacement. Charlotte and Dave would both like to do an RFP for new artwork if possible. Cindy asked if they had a theme in mind. Dave asked what the theme or concept was for the mural at Howard and Sheridan and suggested repeating it. Charlotte agreed - Hello Howard or Welcome to One Howard. Cindy is meeting with Katie tomorrow regarding One Howard Street projects and will ask for updates.

7. Adjournment

meeting adjourned at 10:03am

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, Feb 18, 2026