Howard Street & Jarvis Square Special Service Area #19
Factory Theater -1623 W. Howard St
Wednesday 8/19, 2026 at 9 am
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Tim Amos, Dave Skora, Jenni Smith, Charlotte Walters
Others present: Cindy Plante - RPBA
Jason Kaiser - pending commissioner
Shenicka Hohenkirk - 49th ward office

1. **Call to order**

   Meeting called to order at 9:01 am.

2. **Public comment**

   Jenni shared that she's hosting a fundraiser on 8/26 for A Just Harvest, which is currently experiencing severe financial difficulties. Cindy asked her to share any flyers or links so this can be added to the events calendar and social media.

   Shenicka shared that Imani Clayton just joined the 49th ward office in the economic and community development role - she was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend because she had to go downtown for something but is planning to come to the next one to meet the SSA commissioners and introduce herself.

   Cindy shared that the sinkhole at the corner of Howard and Ashland is currently being repaired by the city.

   Jason shared that Howard & Evanston Community Center is considering making changes to their annual program showcase for next year with an eye toward making it more community-oriented, including possibly moving it to the park and involving more local businesses. The event is usually held in June.

   Dave asked Tim and Jenni about the recent fundraiser for Factory Theater at Jarvis. They reported that the event was successful.

3. **Approve meeting minutes from last meeting**

   Tim moved approval of the minutes. Charlotte seconded.

   Approved 4-0

4. **2026 YTD Financials**

Cindy gave a summary of the SSA financials for the year, which were shared with commissioners by email. The City recently sent around a report on first installment tax funding received by each of the SSAs for the current year, which showed that SSA19 is on track, having received about 55% of the approved levy. We still don't know when second installment property tax bills will be going out, but have been notified that they are being delayed again.

5. **Chalk Howard Street Updates**

Cindy shared updates on Chalk Howard Street which is coming up on Saturday. Commissioners are encouraged to sign up for volunteer shifts on signupgenius if possible. This year's event will run from 11am - 7pm on Saturday, with street closures on Howard beginning on Friday morning.

Charlotte asked about marketing and is concerned that there haven't been enough flyers distributed in the neighborhood. Cindy shared that in addition to social media, newsletters, and flyers, we've also gotten TV coverage set up through our PR firm to promote the event.

Dave asked if we have the same photographer from last time. Cindy shared that we do have a professional photographer booked for the event from noon to 5, but it isn't the same person as last time.

Dave asked about the rain plan.

Cindy said that in the event of rain, completed or in-progress artwork would be covered by tarps or portable tents.

Cindy shared that the artist selected by DCASE for the CTA mural on Ashland has also asked to have a table at Chalk Howard street for community engagement for the mural project, so he'll be on site in addition to the chalk artists. Jenni asked if this is the same project as the CTA wall mural planned for Jarvis.

Shenicka shared that DCASE selected an artist for the Ashland wall and another for the Jarvis one; the artist working on Jarvis has a community survey out now and will be hosting a meeting with community stakeholders on August 27. The artist working on the Ashland mural is going to be tabling at Chalk Howard Street. CTA will be powerwashing both walls before painting starts.

Cindy asked about the timeline for the two murals - Shenicka said they're both on track to be painted this fall.

Jenni said that there has been a lot of illegal dumping in the Jarvis alley recently, particularly mattresses and furniture. Shenicka will follow up with the ward superintendent about this.

Shenicka added that a community kickball game is also scheduled for Willye White Park at 1pm on the same Saturday as Chalk Howard Street, so attendees can attend both events.

6. **One Howard Street Updates**

   a. **wayfinding kiosk**

      Cindy shared that permits have been approved and the kiosks are in production now, so although we don't have a specific installation date, it should be within the next few weeks. The kiosk will be installed at Howard and Paulina on our side and will match the ones planned for installation on the Evanston side of the street as recommended in the One Howard Street plan.

   b. **intersection art**

      Cindy shared that documentation has been submitted to CDOT for permitting approval; they've asked for another round of updates to the drawings, but things are moving forward for installation at Howard and Paulina, which we still hope to do by the end of this year.

      Jenni asked about touching up or powerwashing the pavement mural on the Jarvis alfresco. Cindy will look into this.

   c. **metra mural**

      Cindy shared that we're still waiting on news about renewal of our MacArthur Grant, which would fund the updated and expanded mural on the Metra viaduct. The plan for the project would be to include both sides of the street, with Evanston funding installation on the north side. Assuming funding moves forward, we'd be executing a contract with the same artist team that did the original artwork, with community engagement work happening this fall and installation in 2027.

Dave asked about refreshing and expanding the Hello Howard Mural on the side of the parking garage in 2027. Cindy is aware that Ana and Sandi had been in contact with the artist a year or two ago about a proposal to expand the artwork to the north elevation of the building but it was put on hold due to funding limitations stemming from delayed property tax collections, and by the time funding became available again the building had sold and the new building owner wasn't responding. We can potentially revisit this in 2027.

7. Adjournment

Dave asked how the Callan Plaza event went over the weekend on the Evanston side of Howard. Cindy reported that it was postponed due to weather; the new date is August 29.

Jenni asked if anyone from Taste has reached out about assistance with getting their front door repaired. Cindy hasn't heard from anyone about this. Jenni will follow up with the owner.

Dave asked about maintenance crew scheduling and reports that he hasn't seen the crew on his block of Howard east of Greenview. Cindy reported that Tim Williams has been promoted to maintenance director, filling Brandon's position. He's out supervising the crew in the mornings Wednesday-Sunday; they're off on Mondays and Tuesdays. Jenni reports that she's been seeing them on Jarvis as scheduled.

Dave wants to send a written thank-you letter to the 24th district commander for increased police presence on Howard Street; he plans to write something and circulate it for signatures. He would also like to send something to the park district about the continued delay on installation of the splash pad at Willye White.

Sheniicka shared that Ald. Hadden has met with the park district to keep pressure on them about the splash pad project.

Jenni reported that the ADA curb ramp tiles at the southeast corner of Jarvis and Greenview have come loose and created a tripping hazard where the curb meets the crosswalk. Cindy is aware of the issue because Tony at Theatre Above the Law has reached out about this also -

we've put it in 311 and Zach said that he was also putting in a request before he left. Shenicka said that Zach did submit this and she'll follow up on it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07am

Next SSA Commissioners Meeting: Wednesday, September 16, 2026