



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2017

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: May minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: As of May, 2017: Income: \$125; Expenses: \$567; Balance: \$18,979

Guest Speaker: Shayne Squires, Development Manager, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County

- Builds affordable, energy efficient housing for low-income earners who are required to work 250 hours assisting in constructing their home or other Habitat homes. Participants must also attend classes on budgeting, taxes and home maintenance.
- Takes 300 volunteers to build a house in 90 days.
- Has completed 105 houses and is nearly done with its 106th.
- Raises revenue at its Re-Sell store, holds raffles and dinners, and special events.
- Currently, Habitat is working to attract 1000 women donors to donate \$100 each to finance the construction of a home to be built only by women in the Fall.

Large Scale Development Ordinance: Jim Zerkle, Corporation Counsel, City of Springfield, and Mayor Jim Langfelder

- Current ordinance, supported by local developers and a majority of the City Council, changes the size of projects that must go through large-scale city review from 5 to 12 acres.
- No large-scale development has been denied by the City since a 2004 federal court ruled that it wrongfully denied the construction of a large -scale development.
- Development in the City has been lagging.
- Mayor proposed an amendment that lost which would have required multi-residential or storage units on at least one-half acre to remain subject to Council review.
- Mayor supports providing public access to development proposals and streamlining the approval process.

Response by Alderman McMenamin, Ward 7

- The new ordinance removes formal oversight by the City Council by eliminating its vote to approve projects under 12 acres in size.
- Says original large-scale development process has been working very well pointing to Hy Vee as an example, and that the new ordinance is a false solution to problems that do not exist.

- Large- scale projects, averaging 6 or 7 yearly, will now be put in with hundreds of small-scale projects thus slowing down the process.
- Challenges the contention that no one wants to build in Springfield.
- Believes the City Attorney Jim Zerkle, who owns Town and Country Shopping Center, has a conflict of interest. Zerkle responded that he vigorously follows the rules.

Local Government Update:

Jerome Mayor Michael Lopez

- Announced the Village will be aggressively monitoring access to Iles Avenue from Boulevard Town Homes.
- Jerome continues to experience difficulties with finances because of State government.
- Encouraged everyone to get involved and commended MBA for its leadership.

Announcements:

- Bites on the Boulevard: June 13th, District 23, 1413 S. MacArthur Blvd, 5-9 pm;
- MBA will partner at each Bites event with one of the Neighborhood Schools. Butler Elementary will be the June partner.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary