



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, January 11, 2018**

**Welcome:** President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

**Secretary's Report:** December minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michael presented Treasurer's report for December 2017: Income: \$605; Expenses: \$4,898.01; Year-end Balance: \$16,092.77. The year-end balance is very close to the estimated balance in MBA's 2017 proposed budget.

**Guest Speakers:** Local First Springfield, Executive Director Bill McMahon and Board President Val Yazell

- Local First advocates on behalf of locally-owned independent businesses. Out of every \$1 spent locally, 45 cents stays in the community.
- Local First is a volunteer-based organization with a part-time staff director that works with local businesses.
- Local First has initiated public service announcements on Channel 20 and began a Friday informational series on WMAY featuring local businesses. Future plans include: developing a media strategy focusing on increasing its use of social media; partnering with Gem PR to offer social media training Feb 1 and Feb 2 and will co-sponsor with the City a shredding event on April 21.
- The "Taste of Local" New Year Kickoff Bash will be held January 18<sup>th</sup> at The Corkscrew. Bash begins at 5:00 p.m.
- Local First's office is located at 427 E. Monroe and its website is [www.localfirstspringfield.com](http://www.localfirstspringfield.com)

### **Government Update**

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin

- Springfield's operational budget that begins March 1 has a \$10M deficit.
- Proposals to reduce the deficit include cutting the budget, containing costs, tapping reserves and increasing taxes.
- The City's Comprehensive Plan that provides a vision of where and how to manage future growth is being considered by the City Council. The City of Bloomington uses a mathematical analysis to determine the city's infrastructure cost for a project and the project's anticipated benefits to the City to help determine if the proposal would be a good investment.
- Mayor Langfelder asked Council Members to provide a list of infrastructure projects for his/her Ward.
- Old Esquire Theatre lot is for sale: \$675,000. Owners will subdivide if needed.

Jerome Village President: Mike Lopez

- Congratulated Alderman McMenamin for being named as the best alderman in the Illinois Times.
- Businesses have become interested in locating in the village to avoid City regulations and requirements.

- By Design, a village business, has announced it will close.

County Board Member: Lisa Hills

- The County adopted a balanced budget. All pension and health plans are fully funded.
- It is working on a county-wide comprehensive plan; is preparing to seek bids to replace its animal control facility and is pursuing grant funding to tackle problem properties.

Neighborhood Police Office: Mike Badger

- Officer Badger returned to law enforcement after 24 years as a realtor and is in his 10th year with the Springfield Police Department. For seven years he worked street beats and for three years worked with Crime Stoppers.
- He recognizes the importance of input from local groups and individuals to help in policing our community.
- He has been a resident in the MacArthur Boulevard area for 20 years.

### **Announcements**

- Julie Dirksen thanked all who attended the Annual Meeting at Hy Vee and read a letter of appreciation from SSD #186 Superintendent Jennifer Gill for honoring MBA's tutors and donating \$1000 to each of the four local MacArthur Boulevard schools.
- Laurie Farrell announced Habitat for Humanity's "1000 Women Strong" campaign. The purpose is to obtain a \$100 donation from 1000 women that will be used to build a house in the spring. They have collected 57% of their goal.
- Katie Davison announced that Rasha Said, who spoke to membership at our October meeting, is being honored in the Smart Cities category at the largest consumer electronics show in the nation for developing I-Beacons for the sight impaired.
- President Higgins, who has installed I-Beacons at Maldaners, urged members to pressure the County and City to install I-Beacons in public buildings.
- Joe Regan announced that the Regional Chili Cook-Off benefitting St. Jude's Research Hospital is scheduled January 14 at the Knights of Columbus.
- Thanked January Coffee Sponsor: Wade Kammin from Wild Birds Unlimited.
- The annual breakfast honoring Martin Luther King will be held at the Wyndam, 7:30 a.m., Monday, January 15. Frontiers International sponsors the event that provides college scholarships to youth in the community.
- The new student union building at UIS will have its grand opening Sunday, January 14 at 2 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary