



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, March 9, 2017**

**Welcome:** President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** February Income:\$100; Expenses: \$586.18; Balance: \$19,369.13.

### **Guest Speaker: Martin Fruchtl, Candidate for Ward 6 Alderman**

- Fruchtl is concerned about Springfield finances and supports a progressive comprehensive plan that lasts longer than one year. He would support a long-term fiscal plan also.
- Supports TIF's but believes they should bring a return on the investment.
- Public safety is a priority. Is concerned about police coverage within the ward. Suggests Fire Department switch from line-of-sight design to GPS as a way to improve coverage.
- Believes the City moves too slowly when dealing with problem landlords.
- Says Springfield needs to broaden its tax base.

### **Guest Speaker: Gordon Gates, Candidate for Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) Board of Trustees**

- Gates says Education is his passion and that LLCC is an excellent facility. As a Board member, he will reach out to middle schools to motivate students to think early about LLCC as the alternative to four-year colleges and will promote LLCC to school guidance counselors, students and parents.
- Says Vocational Education is undervalued: LLCC offers 90 high-paying, high demand Voc-Ed programs, including a construction trades program. Job placement for graduates is high and these are jobs that support the growth of the middle class.
- He believes employers and the college should continue to collaborate so that course development matches job market needs.

### **Local Government Reports:**

Joe McMenamain, Alderman, Ward 7

- The Alderman expressed his appreciation to South Side Christian Church for hosting his ward in their newly-renovated community room.
- Ruler Food's maintains its option to purchase former Kerasotes theatre property.

Michael Lopez, Mayor of Jerome

- Jerome continues to cope with a revenue shortfall with more cuts anticipated. Mayor Lopez offered to host an MBA meeting at Jerome Village Hall.

Tammy Russell, Neighborhood Police Officer

- There were no calls for police assistance in the last month at MacArthur Boulevard Town Homes.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Membership: Katie Davison said notifications for renewing dues would be sent by email and that dues can always be paid at monthly meetings.
- Bites on the Boulevard events are being planned. The location will remain at the MacArthur Boulevard parking area adjacent to District 23. Each Bite event will focus on

one MBA neighborhood school: Blackhawk, Blessed Sacrament, Butler and Franklin. Dates are being considered.

**South Side Christian Church Invests in the Boulevard**

- Daniel Shelton, Executive Pastor and MBA Board Member, said the \$2 million dollar renovation of the Church, built in 1944, is the largest project on MacArthur since the construction of HyVee. It was a conscious decision to invest in its MacArthur Boulevard Church property rather than move further west in Springfield as other churches have done. Its Community Room seats 60-80 and is available for use by not-for-profit organizations and community agencies. Daniel stated that the 20-foot mosaic was meticulously made from the Church's old stained glass windows.

The congregation is comprised of many young, middle-aged and older families.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary