



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2017**

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

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

**Treasurer's Report:** As of April 30, 2017, Income: \$425; Expenses: \$358; Balance: \$19,512.03

**Guest Speaker:** Adena Rivas, Community Program Coordinator, Office of Public Works, City of Springfield

- Rivas discussed the City's recycling and waste programs for trash, leaf and limbs and provided two publications: a brochure, *What does my \$3 Waste & Recycling Fee pay for?* and a publication with more information called *Room to Room Guide to Reuse and Recycling Options* that can be read and/or downloaded by going to <http://www.springfield.il.us>.
- Rivas also organizes events highlighting Earth Day and National Public Works Week.
- The City contracted with Evans Recycling to accept yard waste (\$1 per bag) from city residents only. Evans provides ONE time free yard waste drop-off services to City residents in Spring and Fall.
- Midwest Fiber no longer collects glass in the downtown business district since the State dropped its contract with the company.
- Individuals asked about curbside or landfill composting. Sangamon County does not provide composting at its site. The Department has been looking for composting facilities in Springfield but there are none.

### **Local Government Update:**

Alderswoman Kristin DiCenso, Ward 6

- Utilizes social media, Facebook and Next Door, a neighborhood application, where she can share and receive information from constituents.
- Web.com Golf Tournament will be held at Panther Creek on June 22-25. The City has been asked to underwrite \$30,000 of PGA costs for the second year.
- Announced new community garden to be located at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Allen.
- She is busy establishing connections with Ward 6 Neighborhood Associations.
- Sees a need to educate City residents about economic development.

Alderman Joe McMenamin, Ward 7

- Expressed appreciation to Cohen-Esrey for investing \$10M in improvements in Boulevard Town Homes (formerly MacArthur Park Apartments).
- Alerted the Association that an ordinance was introduced to eliminate public input during the planning phase of development for all projects under 12 acres.

- Among comments made in the discussion were: ask the Springfield Regional Planning Commission to provide an objective analysis of the proposal and delay the Council vote as current proposal would foster urban sprawl. The vote delay issue is two-fold: critical need for policy discussion and understanding of its problematic regulatory process.
- Alderman DiCenso said proposal's purpose was to remove red tape and speed-up development in Springfield. She also remarked that the City needs a City Planner.

Neighborhood Police Officer: Tammy Russell

- The owner of the MacArthur Town Homes will provide a much-needed substation for the Neighborhood Police. 34/184 Town Home units have been rented.
- Russell announced that she is being reassigned and a new Neighborhood Police Officer will replace her in December.

**Announcements:**

- Membership: No report
- Doug Dougherty announced that MBA received notification from IRS granting 501C(3) status to Believe in the Boulevard that will boost fundraising efforts.
- Two potential fundraising projects are for signage; such as, domes on top of street signs saying *Believe in the Boulevard* and for bus shelters that Dave Leonotti will design for the Boulevard. The goal is to build two shelters.
- Michelle Knox, WindSolarUSA, announced another "group-buy" solar program for Springfield and Sangamon County businesses and residents. Investment payback is 5 years for commercial property and 8 years for private property. Informational meetings will be held.
- Springfield office of the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on June 16 at Scheels from 9 am-6:30 pm. The goal is 100 units to coincide with Springfield's Centennial.
- Raven, Property Manager for Boulevard Town Homes, announced a ribbon cutting and open house will be held on May 18 starting at 10 am.
- Teachers affiliated with MBA will provide after school programming at the Town Homes in the Fall.
- Thank you to our May coffee sponsors: MBA Members David and Laurie Farrell.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary