



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2017

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

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

Treasurer's Report: As of July, 2017: Income: \$1,360; Expenses: \$1,670; Balance: \$18,850

Speaker: Sal Madonia, IDOT Project Director; Jeff Myers and Jay Edwards, IDOT Project Engineers: MacArthur Boulevard Feasibility Study Update

- Study produced seven scaled proposals ranging from minimal effort; such as, a simple road overlay, to combinations of lane and roadside improvements. Proposals cover lane design, sidewalks, bike paths, landscaping and business property concerns.
- Further studies will examine in more depth the best choices among the seven proposals described, with funding and implementation to proceed. So far there is no funding to advance to the next or any further stage.
- MacArthur Boulevard, from Wabash to South Grand, is an unmarked state highway for which the city has a maintenance contract. Traffic on the Boulevard is 21,000 vehicles per day and the current road condition is rated "low level fair" but not yet "poor."

Bites on the Boulevard

- Tracy Gage, Butler Elementary School Principal, said over \$350 was raised at the July Bites event, which will go toward basic school supplies to set a solid foundation for students who need the help.
- Terrance Jordan, Black Hawk Elementary Principal, thanked everyone for their support at the August Bites event and said over \$700 was raised which will go toward new Black Hawk library books.
- President Higgins thanked all who volunteered in the combined community effort at organizing, setting up and cleaning up. Ten food trucks participated in the August event and all reported they were pleased with business.

Local Government Update

- **Joe McMenamin, Alderman, Ward 7**, reminded everyone that the current IDOT work stems from a Council ordinance designating MacArthur Boulevard as a priority, after MBA (formerly MBBA) drove the Lakota Study (aka Feasibility Study).
- Alderman McMenamin supports a study gathering input from businesses along the Boulevard re: parking and building usage.
- **Kristin DiCenso, Alderwoman, Ward 6**, discussed YMCA Block concerns including a need for the public to weigh-in plus the current lack of an Economic Development Director. She is concerned about car crime and break-ins but was

- pleased to report that of 10 National Night Outs in Springfield (events to familiarize the community with police programs), half were held in Ward 6.
- **Mike Lopez, Mayor, Village of Jerome**, said NAPA store is open and there are some sales tax issues to be resolved regarding Jerome revenue being given to Springfield. He expressed concern about crime in the MacArthur Town Homes area and about an increase in road traffic with the opening of the schools.
 - **Tami Russell, Neighborhood Police Officer**, said seven calls were made at the MacArthur Town Homes recently but most of those were officer generated for support and inquiry.

President's Report

- Michael distributed MBA's Letter to the Editor supporting Food Trucks, which will be run as a Guest column in the SJR.
- Michael described MacArthur as the crossroad for bike trails in Springfield since they meet or are easily accessible from MacArthur. Talks are underway with a bike-share vendor that could enhance MacArthur's bicycle friendly commitment.

Announcements

- Alderman McMenamin closed the meeting on a positive note by inviting fellow MBA members to join him at the Starcrest Cleaners ribbon cutting ceremony located at 2025 South MacArthur Boulevard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John LeValley, Acting Secretary