



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, January 12, 2017**

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer's Report: December Income: \$7200; Expenses: \$5700; Balance: \$20,182.34.

Guest Speaker: Lisa Clemmons Stott, Executive Director, Downtown Springfield, Inc.

- During 2016, DSI focused on attracting more shoppers downtown during the Christmas season resulting in an increase in sales up to twice as much for some retailers.
- Eighteen new businesses opened; volunteer hours increased by 60%; will utilize information collected from three focus groups in a new marketing plan; identified the kinds of businesses that were needed to attract more patrons.
- DSI 2017 goals: expand marketing activities; attract businesses that would provide amenities for those who live downtown; increase the number of permanent residents; increase DSI funding.

Alderman Joe McMenamin, Ward 7

- There is no new information on the Ruler Food store. Wall Street Journal reported that Kroger is re-evaluating its investment in low-end food stores.
- McDonald's is closing its MacArthur Boulevard location January 31st. Alderman McMenamin will request a meeting with the corporate office.
- Aldermen are getting pushback on the Mayor's tax package. Some increases may pass if they are considered separately.
- Asked MBA to formally support transferring the control of MacArthur Boulevard from the State to the City. Doug Dougherty, MBA Board Member, moved that MBA further examine the plan to shift the Boulevard's oversight and the time frame needed to improve the infrastructure so the City would not incur the majority of those costs.

Acting Alderman Barry Becker, Ward 6

- MBA welcomed Alderman Becker.

Jerome Mayor Michael Lopez

- The State rebated Retail Sales Tax Revenue to Jerome recently four months after it was due.
- Leland Grove police assisted covering Jerome when Jerome was short two policemen.
- Renovation of Flooring Depot on Wabash is on schedule. The retail mall is in the planning phase.

County Board Member Lisa Hills

- The County is developing a solid waste recycling plan.
- Adopted a hazardous mitigation program that qualifies them for FEMA funding.

Announcements:

- Julie Dirksen and Loretta Durbin plan to walk MacArthur to promote business memberships. Contact Julie Dirksen at [www.shoponmacarthur.com](http://www.shoponmacarthur.com) to volunteer.
- Chris Hanken, co-owner of Pie's the Limit, said business is doing well among neighbors as well as daily Boulevard travelers.
- Joe Costa, owner of Roy's Tailors, was congratulated for 50 years in business and for being featured in an Illinois Times article.
- Joe Regan, chaired the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Freeze Cook-Off, benefitting St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary