



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 8, 2018

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer's Report: January Income: \$320.00; Expenses: \$272.15; Balance:\$16,030.62.

Guest Speaker: Molly Berns, Acting Executive Director, Springfield - Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission: Proposed City's Comprehensive Plan.

- Overall goal is to make Springfield more attractive by developing a land use and development plan for the next twenty years.
- An 11 person steering committee was created - Commission, Mayor, City staff and citizens - to oversee process.
- Goals: connect neighborhoods; bring in more businesses; maintain Springfield heritage; however, main question is: how does City attract people to attain goals?
- City map showing Sector 7 which is Historic Downtown City Core and Sector 13 Southwest, which includes MacArthur Boulevard area, was distributed at meeting. This map shows that Springfield is a "town of neighborhoods."
- MBA was encouraged to work with other City neighborhood associations to listen, plan and adopt mutual neighborhood improvements.
- Planning Committee will meet with citizens/associations to listen re: acceptable change in variance requests. Requests will be reviewed and recommendations made.
- 2017-2037 Comprehensive Plan was passed January 9, 2018 by the City Council.

Local Government Update:

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin

- Announced Alderwoman DiCenso would be absent due to work related obligation.
- City Budget:
 - 9-1 veto against increase in City taxes.
 - Need to diversify revenue streams. The last four months had less Sales Tax than past four years. City has to develop a "revenue smart" plan.
 - Focus on cost containment with City employees.
- Congratulated Molly Berns on Comprehensive Plan presentation at City Council meeting.

Jerome Mayor: Michael Lopez

- Jerome is experiencing a rise in vandalism.
- Agreed with Alderman McMenamin regarding Sales Tax revenue comments.
- Mayor Lopez invited MBA members to join him in the Jerome July 4th Parade.

County Board Member: Lisa Hills

- Working with unincorporated neighborhood on land lord difficulties.
- Questioned Molly Berns about long term impact of granting "use variances". Ms. Berns stated that "long term variance is not a good working plan."

Announcements:

- Free Press Coffee House located at MacArthur & South Grand will open February 9th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted, Julie Dirksen, Acting Secretary