



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 10, 2018

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer's Report: March and April: Income \$175; Expenses \$96.71; Balance \$16,630.83

Presentation: 2018 Bites on the Boulevard: Katie Davison and Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Members

- Monthly Bites on the Boulevard will be held from 5-9 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month: June 12th, July 10th, Sept. 11th and first Tuesday, August 7th to avoid conflict with Opening Day of the State Fair.
- The neighborhood schools will have an opportunity to raise money for their schools at each event: Butler (June), Blessed Sacrament (July), Black Hawk (August), Franklin (September.)
- Bites will be held at the same location on the southwest corner of South Grand and MacArthur and will be promoted through social media, ads and targeted mailings.

Local Government Update

Alderman Joe McMenamin, Ward 7

- Alderman McMenamin acknowledged Black Hawk Principal Terrance Jordan for being selected Administrator of the Year for Springfield Public Schools and David Farrell for being selected as the 2018 William E. Winter Award Recipient for his leadership, volunteerism and advocacy on behalf of the University of Illinois Springfield.
- Tony Collins has left as Manager of Hy Vee. His replacement has not yet been announced.
- Mark Mahoney, Director of Public Works, announced \$3M in improvements for Chatham Road.
- Joe urged MBA to support a plan for improvements on MacArthur since an infrastructure appropriation is expected after the November election.
- Support is also needed to transfer ownership of MacArthur Boulevard from the State to the City. Both MBA and City Council members pledged to advocate for funding Boulevard improvements.
- Beautification efforts at the vacant Esquire theatre lot have been slow-going because of difficulties connecting with the owners.
- Lynn McMenamin thanked MBA for the \$500 Green-Up Grant given to Butler School to expand their school garden. Lynn said everything growing at Butler is from heirloom seeds and gave a detailed description of how the money was used. She said all the children participate in learning about plants and have a chance to dig-in to plant seeds and care for their garden. They also "very much enjoy eating what they sow".

Jerome Mayor Michael Lopez

- Mayor Lopez asked MBA to include funding to re-surface Iles Avenue in its proposal for Boulevard infrastructure funding. The Mayor was told that infrastructure projects should be multi-jurisdictional in order to be considered for funding.
- He announced that Advance Auto Parts will close soon; expressed his concern that rental rates at the new Wabash mall are a hurdle for interested renters; observed that the chain that owns Shop & Save has all of its stores on the market for sale.
- The Mayor would like the City of Springfield to establish a line of communication to public schools by appointing a liaison to the schools (as had been done previously).
- Jerome is seeking bids to clear trash in the Village and plans to implement Clean-Up days using volunteers and school children.
- Everyone is invited to participate in Jerome's July 4th parade.

Sangamon County Board Representative Lisa Hills

- Woodside Township passed a new weed ordinance that requires owners to cut weeds that are above 6 inches high. Violators will be subject to a Township charge for cutting them plus a 15% up-charge. The Township has authority to place a lien on property for repeated failure to control weed growth.

- A major remodeling project will be undertaken at the entrance to Springfield Airport and a new jet bridge will be added as well.
- Sangamon County is ranked #1 in the State for getting the “best bang for your property tax buck” by Smart Asset. The County is ranked 13th nationally.

NPO Mike Badger

- Graffiti has become a problem on fences in alleys, on bike paths and commercial property. Outdoor lighting or video systems would deter graffiti “artists” who damage property in the very early morning hours.
- A new pilot program to address homelessness in Springfield is planned. It is based upon a successful program in Wichita, Kansas.

Announcements

- Thanks to Lynn and Joe McMenamain, MBA’s May Coffee and Doughnut Sponsors.
- Thanks to Blessed Sacrament School and volunteers for co-sponsoring Clean Up MacArthur with MBA.
- Congratulations to SPS Administrator of the Year, Terrance Jordan, for creating a family environment at Black Hawk School and advocating for the children.
- Val Yazell thanked MBA volunteers for helping with Local First Springfield’s recent shredding event. Local First is also promoting attendance at Bites on the Boulevard.
- Rolling Meadows Brewery’s corporate headquarters has recently located in the MBA neighborhood.
- The goal of Curb Your Car week, May 13-20, is to encourage biking, walking, and taking the bus. It ends with a 12-mile night bike ride.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary