



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, September 13, 2018

Welcome: Pres. Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer's Report: August Income: \$1,072.00; Expenses: \$780.94; Balance: \$17,171.45

Guest Speaker: Eric Berglund, President and CEO, Land of Lincoln Economic Development Corporation for Springfield and Sangamon County

- Berglund's assignment is to implement an Economic Development Plan that results in a thriving County-wide economy. He will work toward producing a plan that attracts a mix of new industries; supports and enhances existing businesses; cultivates innovation and entrepreneurship and attracts new residents to the area.
- Initial weaknesses he has observed: a complacent culture, i.e. reliance economically on a single entity like State Government and a lack of a feeling of connectedness to the City among residents.
- He has held nine civic engagement sessions with more to follow in order to collect information from all segments of the community to take to the Development Board. That information will be used to draft short and longer-term action plans.

Local Government:

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin

- The Mayor is meeting with Aldermen to schedule Ward meetings.
- Petition filing for April 2019 City elections begin the week of Thanksgiving.
- An advisory referendum to merge Capital Township with the County will be on the ballot in the November election. A second advisory referendum to merge Capital Township with the City will be on the ballot in April.
- Road improvements from Wabash Avenue to Jefferson total \$2M.
- The striping on Cherry Road has been completed.

Jerome Mayor: Michael Lopez

- Rumors about closing Jerome's Shop & Save have not been confirmed.
- Jerome opposes a proposal to merge the Village with Springfield.
- State funding has been obtained to improve the path from Franklin Middle School to Jerome.
- Jerome residents will decide at the November election whether or not to increase property taxes to offset the Village's pension obligations.

September Bites on the Boulevard:

- Crowd was steady; great teamwork among Springfield Jaycees and MBA volunteers; Franklin Middle School collected \$276 in donations; special thanks to South Side Christian Church and Delta Church for their continued support.

Announcements:

- Help Clean Up MacArthur with Franklin Middle School on Saturday, October 20th. MBA volunteers are needed. Meet in the Franklin parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
- Join the MBA Board! Let Michael Higgins know if you are interested.
- Thanks to Anne and Doug Dougherty, September coffee sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary