



**MBA FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
South Side Christian Church
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
February 14, 2019**

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 7:44 a.m.

Welcome: President Michael Higgins

Secretary's Report:

- No changes suggested to the minutes;
- January Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Daniel Shelton is out sick;
 - The January Treasurer's Report will be presented at the March meeting along with the February Treasurer's Report.

Program: Rachael Thomson, Board President and Leah Wilson, Executive Director of the Kidzeum of Health & Science

- Effort to create Kidzeum started 14 years ago.
- Executive Director, Leah Wilson, came from Cedar Rapids, IA where she was the VP of an eastern European cultural museum.
- Mission: inspire learning through play/serve as a place of learning and discovery through play for children of all abilities
 - Specific effort made to ensure all the exhibits are immersive and allow children to fully interact with the education component;
 - Focus on STEM.
- History
 - Original Children's Museum opened in 1992; closed 8 years later;
 - Pans for a new museum merged in 2008;
 - Focus groups included physicians, parents, educators and children determined the focus of the museum;
 - Construction began in June of 2017;
 - Opened on July 21, 2018.
- 2018 accomplishments
 - Over 110 visitors on opening weekend;
 - Sponsored by HSHS St. John's Hospital Café Moxo and Buzz Bomb Brewing Company;
 - Over a dozen participating organizations;
 - Activities for kids all weekend;
 - Partnership with Downtown Farmers Market.
- Focus of sensory-friendly times
 - Partnership with Hope School to open one hour early to allow children with sensory issues come and experience the museum without other stimulus that might affect them negatively during normal hours.
- Various types of interactive galleries, including traveling exhibits
 - Current traveling exhibit is called "Big Time Fun."
- Host a Little Free Lincoln Library (partnership with Lincoln Library)

- Offers a story time on Thursdays at 11am;
- Opened December 8, 2018.
- Historic Wall Restoration
 - Funded by Community Foundation of Lincoln Land and Paul O’Shea;
 - Original architectural structure of the building;
 - Also working to create a program that celebrates the history of the former print shop building.
- Kidzeum Stats
 - \$9 ticket price for visitors aged 2+;
 - Various discounts for seniors, active military, EBT/Link recipients;
 - Breaking stats into before school and after school;
 - In first month of opening (before start of 2018-2019 school year), over 9,000 visitors;
 - August 25 – December 31, 2018, over 11,000 visitors.
- Ability to host parties/group sales reservations available.
- Membership Available: 583 total at end of 2018.
- Total 2018 Contributions - total revenue: \$512,946.
- 2019 Preview
 - “Bees, Butterflies & Blooms:” focusing on native pollinators & plants in Illinois, also general information on what’s happening to all pollinators (especially Monarch butterflies);
 - There will be an observation hive available, working with local apiary professional;
 - Animatronic Monarch butterfly will be in the exhibit;
 - “Don’t be a Zombie! Be prepared.”
 - Exhibit is from Purdue University, who develops traveling galleries;
 - About using CDC data to educate kids on disaster preparedness.

Local Government Update:

- a. **Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso:** absent-ill/no report.
- b. **Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:**
 - i. Hoogland Redevelopment effort on former Federated Funerals Director building and other land;
 1. Effort is contingent upon rezoning entirely to commercial (several properties are currently zoned residential).
 - ii. Jurisdictional Transfer of MacArthur between Interstate and Wabash;
 1. Up for final passage on February 19.
- c. **Mayor, Village of Jerome, Mike Lopez:**
 - i. Shop N Save on Chatham Road closed;
 1. Major cuts will be necessitated to maintain solvency;
 2. “Dark lease” in place, prohibiting any momentum with the property for a specified (but currently unknown amount) of time.
 - ii. Iles Avenue;
 1. Major sinkhole found.
 - iii. New development/redevelopment;
 1. Ice cream and tea retail store to open, supposedly, within 90 days;
 2. Pizza Hut relocating to the same strip;
 3. Former Road Ranger possibly turning into another video gaming.
- d. **Sangamon County, County Board Member: Lisa Hills**
 - i. No report.
- e. **Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger**
 - i. Reminder to lock cars; gun recently stolen out of a locked vehicle and same-day used to commit an armed robbery;
 - ii. Otherwise, no report.

Announcements:

- Thanks to our February coffee sponsor, Paul O’Shea, MBA Member.
- Lisa Hills made a motion to attend February 19th Council meeting to state MBA cause; Mike Lopez seconded; all approved.
- Introduction of Caleb Leach, Marketing Director at Hy-Vee.
- EDC hosted their Annual meeting at the end of January; strategic plan released: “County of the Future”
 - Goals by 2030;

- More people;
- Higher assessed values;
- Jobs & new business investment are the keys to getting to this point.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jess Weitzel, Secretary