



MBA MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING
South Side Christian Church
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
March 14, 2019

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 7:40 a.m.

Welcome: President Michael Higgins

Secretary's Report:

- Motion introduced by Jess Weitzel, seconded by Nicki Stratton to include updates from the Kidzeum
 - All approved

Treasurer's Report:

- \$150.00 income, \$5.57 expenses, \$18,156.82 balance
- Motion made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Michael Higgins, seconded by Loretta Durbin
 - All approved

Program: Chris Stone, Unique Perspectives on the Boulevard

- Contract lobbyist since 1996/1997
- Lives two blocks off the Boulevard
- Redeveloped Iles Park Place
- Part owner of one of two medical marijuana retail sites, growing facility in Barry, IL
- Passion to see the city redevelop itself
- Initially wanted to develop the SE corner of South Grand & MacArthur as a 6-screen movie theater, including retail space housing a Starbucks and Panera
- Suggests discussing a larger capital bill with State legislators to include funding for improvements to MacArthur or significant payment to COS if the jurisdiction is transferred
- Casino proposal: \$150M -> \$47M in revenue back to the local taxing jurisdictions, including local and parochial schools; no specific site proposal at this time; projections are reflective of current average casino revenues; authorization comes from the State
- Plans for redevelopment of the NW corner of Iles Park Place? Beautification first, then providing additional for parking for DHS as they grow

Local Government Update:

• **Alderman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso:**

- a. Reminder, election April 2nd
- b. Driven MacArthur recently with new IDOT Secretary, continuing talks on that issue, if a Capital Bill approved, we should see some major improvements
- c. Landscaping issues on the city: have and maintain proper landscaping; Springfield Green has been revived; City needs to landscape the median on South Grand, just east of MacArthur
- d. Hoogland development: ran a recent poll with 81% approving of it but the detractors were adjacent residents who are concerned about the ingress/egress on State Street; DiCenso is supportive of the development as long as it respects the State Street residents
- e. Infrastructure approval for the City? The Mayor sent an email about \$56M infrastructure spending proposal for State capital bill but that would need to be negotiated by the Aldermen as well

• **Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:**

- a. \$20M for MB in Capital Spending bill – mayor requested to State/Governor
- b. Supreme Hibachi Grill – new ownership; Joe asked if they'd like to be members

- c. Hoogland: Tuesday April 16 is the Zoning decision at RPC, includes a housing component
- d. Downtown Hotel
- **Mayor, Village of Jerome, Mike Lopez:**
 - a. Issues continue in Jerome: \$21,000 shortfall due to Shop N Save; \$56,000 deficit this year
 - b. \$6M in Capital Bill request for Iles Avenue
 - c. No interested buyers or lessees of Wabash Shop N Save; 120 lockout on movement due to corporate interest
 - d. 3 more inquiries about video gaming parlors in Jerome since 3/7/19, owners quoting difficulty of working with city processes
 - e. Penny Lane is looking to remodel the retail, including a small restaurant
- **Sangamon County, County Board Member: Lisa Hills**
 - a. Colorectal Awareness Month – Sangamon County Health Department is offering free screening kits
- **Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger**
 - a. Reminder to lock your cars

Announcements:

- Thanks to our February coffee sponsor, Justin Creasey, The Real Estate Group.
- ICON endorsements announced
- Bites on Boulevard volunteers being accepted now
- Strategic Planning effort underway – be aware of survey coming soon
- Ward 6 cleanup on March 23rd: meet at Mel-O-Cream set for 11am
- MacArthur Boulevard Spring cleanup will be in conjunction with Alderwoman DiCenso's cleanup on March 23rd

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jess Weitzel, Secretary