



**Virtual Zoom Meeting
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
Thursday, January 14, 2020**

January Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
 - a. Meeting convened at 7:31am

2. **MBA Business**
 - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
 - i. March 2020 and January 2021 minutes will be presented for approval at our next meeting.
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Katie Davison in lieu of Justin Creasey
 - i. Balance sheet update is \$18,006.16
 - ii. Motion to approve by Doug Dougherty, seconded by Mary Jo Bangert, all approved

3. **Speaker(s):**
 - a. Going over the second round of stimulus legislation – Kevin Lust, Central Illinois Small Business Development Center
 - i. The second round of PPP is still evolving. The bill was passed and signed into law on December 27, 2020. The SBA has a large chunk of the financial support to administer. The first round of applications will open on Monday, January 18, 2021. Banks under \$1B in assets will be able to start processing their applications before larger banks. Non-profits are also eligible. Like the last round, the PPP is the business equivalent of the economic impact payments (stimulus checks). If a business or applicant received a first PPP loan in 2020, then there will be several additional requirements on top of the loan application (for previous borrowers who received \$150,000 or less, an affidavit stating the funds were used will be required). New borrowers under 2021 PPP will have to show a 25% reduction in income (proof of reduction can be bank statements, possibly quarterly sales tax documents, etc.). The regulations and instructions are still evolving.

- ii. There is a new SBA grant program called “Save our Stages” to help support shuttered, struggling live venues (theater, music, etc.), performing arts organizations, relevant museums, promoters, etc. The program is not yet rolled out, but should be launched next. The venue will also have to show a loss of 25% in operations.
 - iii. The SBA made 6 months of payments under the CARES Act in 2020 for SBA guaranteed loans. There is a possibility that there will be a similar payment provision under the most recent relief bill. In addition to the payment relief, this could be a good opportunity for businesses looking to pursue SBA funding for a new or expanding business.
 - iv. Steve Gnuse (Town & County) – A new requirement is that if a business in hospitality (NAICS code starting with 72) will be eligible for additional assistance, given how hard those industries have been hit.
- b. Discussing changes to business operations under shifting COVID mitigation regulations – Colleen Kelley, Sangamon County Department of Public Health
 - i. SCDPH is hoping that our area will be kicked back to Phase 4, though our statistics are hovering between Phase 3 and Phase 4 guidelines. This is essentially allow indoor dining up to 50% capacity. The current occupancy allowed in Sangamon County is 25% (the SCDPH saw a drop in December of our rolling 7-day positivity rate, so restaurants were allowed to reopen under this 25% capacity).
 - ii. Sangamon County is doing a 50% rebate on all 2020 permit fees, so this information should be shared with business who can then request their rebate.
 - iii. Q&A:
 - 1. Where is the enforcement of the 25% capacity rule?
 - a. The SCDPH enforcement team is working 8a-7p but is complaint-driven (aside from education pushes which started around January 3rd). SCDPH has 10 inspectors and they are constantly in the field.
 - 2. Is there any information available on the Phase 1B vaccine rollout (residents over 65)?
 - a. There is no wait list; individuals have to constantly check back in with the SCDPH to schedule an appointment either through their hotline or their website. The last batch of doses was 1,800 but this next batch should be around 6,000.
 - i. The hotline number is 217-321-2606.

4. Local Government Update

- a. Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso
 - i. The City Council has only voted on a mask mandate for bars and restaurants; the City Council is not in a position of authority to close down

or reopen bars or restaurants. The Mayor is the Liquor Commissioner so he alone has the authority to reopen bars within the city.

- ii. The intersection of Lawrence and MacArthur is getting re-designed to include a turn lane and will get new signals. The right of way will not be expanded.
 - iii. The Legacy Pointe Sports Complex was introduced several weeks ago. There is no current agreement between the Mayor's Office/Corporation Counsel with the developer at this time, so the ordinance is being held in committee until more details are worked out.
 - iv. There are current threats to the Capitol starting this Saturday. The National Guard, Illinois State Police, and Springfield Police are prepared to handle the threat and are taking the threat seriously. The team handling the response are also including the Old State Capitol in their plans.
 - v. Alderwoman DiCenso does not expect our region to be moved to Phase 4, unfortunately. Our county is doing well, but many counties around us are not. Until we are vaccinated more robustly as a community, we will continue to struggle.
- b. Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin
- i. An overall consultant was chosen to complete Phase 1 (planning) and Phase 2 (design/engineering) for MacArthur Boulevard.
 - ii. The City's budget process is starting now. Normally Council would have budget books, but those are delayed to catch up crunching numbers. The good news is that we will end the 2021 fiscal year at the end of February much better than we anticipated a year ago.
 - iii. Happy to see Lil Willy's come to the Boulevard, taking over the former Free Press Coffee House.
 - iv. Alderman McMenamin and Alderwoman Dicenso introduced a quarterly crime reporting ordinance to help get a better handle on what's happening in the city so we can figure out what resources are needed to better meet our needs.
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez, absent
- d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert
- i. Chatham Road is working with the City of Springfield to work on Chatham Road. This should be out for bid soon, if not already. Construction should begin this spring.
 - ii. Leland Grove Police Department coordinates closely and supports other local police departments.
 - iii. Crosswalks completed to support Franklin, Butler, and Blessed Sacrament schools.
 - iv. Body cameras have been purchased for LGPD.
- e. Board Member, Sangamon County: Kevin McGuire, absent
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger

- i. Over the course of the last year, Officer Badger was tracking armed robberies. There was one in the winter/early spring last year, but did not see a significant instances over the summer. Two occurred in the fall. The Police Department was very relieved to see that there was not an increase given the economic downturn due to COVID.
- ii. Officer Badger is concerned about shots fired incidents across the city. There haven't been many in the MacArthur Boulevard area but there have been in other areas, including incidents that resulted in injury and loss of life. SPD has identified approximately a dozen individuals associated with gangs that are likely responsible for these shots fired incidents. There aren't any that live directly in the MacArthur Boulevard area, but some have connections in our area. Officer Badger has stepped up his patrols hoping to discourage and head off any incidents.
- iii. As always, lock your car doors. Also lock garages and outbuildings as there has been an increase in incidents where garages and outbuildings. Officer Badger anticipates break-ins of garages and outbuildings might increase in 2021.

5. Announcements

- a. Several businesses have opened on the Boulevard, such as Lil' Willy's, Toasty Subs. Our businesses so far have been staying open as well so when you think about shopping local, please think about patroning businesses along the Boulevard.
- b. MBA provided a letter of support for the Legacy Pointe Sports Complex. We also asked in the letter for the City to make the Boulevard a priority in terms of updates, beautification, etc..
 - i. Sangamon CEO set up an ice skating rink on property owned by Scheel's. The project is the brainchild of the program, but is being funded by LRS and the donation of space and rental equipment by Scheel's.
- c. The Frontiers Club is hosting their annual MLK breakfast virtually this year. It will be broadcast by the City on Channel 18.
- d. A vintage boutique is opening in the old Dave's Locksmith building.
- e. A building permit for the closed Family Video was filed for a possible Little Caesar's.
- f. No current update on the foreclosure of Town & Country Shopping Center.
- g. We know 2020 was a challenging year for many of our community members. If you're unable to renew your membership, we completely understand. If, however, you'd like to renew for 2021, you can do so online at <https://squareup.com/store/macarthur-boulevard-association>

6. Adjourned at 8:34am

Respectfully submitted,
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary