



**Virtual Zoom Meeting  
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard  
Thursday, February 11, 2021**

**February Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
  - a. Meeting convened at 7:30am
  
2. **MBA Business**
  - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
    - i. Approval of January 2021 minutes
      1. Motion made to approve the minutes by David Farrell, seconded by John Eck; all approved
  - b. Treasurer's Report – Justin Creasey, absent
    - i. No report
  
3. **Speaker(s):**
  - a. Legacy Sports Complex – Scott Dahl, Director, Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
    - i. City commissioned a Phase 1 study for sports tourism; want to avoid middle market facility – far too competitive; the goal would be to create a national, world class facility
    - ii. June of 2020 Legacy Development conducted a feasibility study and presented to City Council
    - iii. Currently held in Committee but anticipated to move forward
    - iv. Low risk to City
    - v. Anticipate 250,000 new visitors annually due to sports tourism
    - vi. Requests forthcoming to abate property taxes
    - vii. Goal to open in Springfield 2023
    - viii. Q&A
      1. Any news of an ice rink or anything for the Springfield Sliders?
        - a. No current plans for an ice rink but there will be a large fieldhouse accommodating basketball, volleyball, cheer, etc.. in addition to the outdoor fields

2. [Meeting had to be restarted to get around a meeting hacker.]
  3. Black Hawk is closest elementary school to the sports complex; should be adopted by the project!
  4. Is there room for retail in addition to the sports park?
    - a. Yes, there is still room for retail or other commercial development
  5. General question: With starting to reopen, what is Tourism doing to promote other outdoor opportunities?
    - a. First market to return will be domestic leisure travel; launching a passport program to highlight spots around Springfield.
    - b. Outdoor activities fall under our heritage tourism and is also a focus
- b. How neighborhood schools are pivoting during COVID – Terrence Jordan, Principal, Black Hawk Elementary
- i. Began bringing students back on January 12 under hybrid model on A and B days; off days involve “asynchronous work”
  - ii. Separate entry points for drop offs, bus, etc.
    1. Students are screen on entry
  - iii. Has PPE on site and enforces social distancing as well as a COVID isolation room in case any students report symptoms
  - iv. All Black Hawk students have access to iPads to take home to be able to do their work
  - v. School keeping records on students with exposure to COVID and other applicable health factors
  - vi. District level:
    1. Since August 31, 2020 positive cases: 24 students, 109 staff (
      - a. Contact tracing is showing that positive cases are happening outside of the school
  - vii. Q&A:
    1. Any want MBA can support the schools?
      - a. Support public health messages of wearing masks, staying socially distanced since
      - b. Attendance is being impacted: either low attendance or low attendance
        - i. Will have to start planning how to get students caught up for some who have missed up to a year of class
        - ii. Underdog Sports suggested gift cards or raffle items to help drive up attendance
      - c. Summer programs will be essential
    2. Are teachers being successful in getting vaccinated?

- a. It's taken a while, but now yes. The Superintendent is working to get additional doses for our teachers.

#### **4. Local Government Update**

- a. Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso
  - i. Hoping to move sports complex forward on March 9 in City Council
    - 1. Wide ranging support across many different groups and industries
  - ii. A lot of violence along MacArthur Boulevard lately; this is the Alderwoman's biggest concern right now
  - iii. We are still in Phase 4. Please continue to stay safe and use good public health practices.
- b. Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin
  - i. Work moving forward for State's MacArthur Boulevard project
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez, absent
- d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert, absent
- e. Board Member, Sangamon County: Kevin McGuire, absent
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger, absent

#### **5. Announcements**

- a. 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 8:38am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary