



**May 2021 Meeting
South Side Christian Church
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
Thursday, May 13, 2021**

May Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
 - a. Meeting convened at 7:32am

2. **MBA Business**
 - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
 - i. Approval of March 2021 minutes
 1. Motion made to approve the minutes by Chris Hanken, seconded by Laurie Farrell, no discussion all approved
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Katie Davison
 - i. \$20,711.07 balance as of 04/30/2021
 - ii. Motion made to approve the report by David Farrell, seconded by Jess Weitzel, all approved

3. **Speaker(s):**
 - a. 2021 Levitt AMP Concert Series – Lisa Clemmons Stott, Executive Director & Christi Walden, Volunteer of DSI
 - i. Program: Mortimer and Mimi Levitt founded the organization. Mortimer grew up in Brooklyn and remembered hearing concerts from a local venue which his family couldn't afford to attend. The foundation is about activating underutilized space and bringing the community together around free, live music. DSI started pursuing this grant in 2018, and was initially awarded in 2019. 7,700 attendees came in over the 10-week concert series that year and it resulted in a series of viral hashtags around "Springfield Pride."
 - ii. This year's program:
 1. The series will be Thursday nights between 6:00-8:30pm. The lineup includes Teddy Puente Jr. and the New Orleans Jazz

- Ramblers. The balance of the lineup should be made available sometime after Friday, May 14.
2. Each night will have an opening act and a headliner.
 3. The food and beverage situation will be mostly vendor-free and attendees are encouraged to bring their food with them.
 - a. The event will promote participating restaurant's \$10 Thursday Night Special each week. Restaurant participation in this event is being billed as free advertising
 4. Seating will be based on "pods," or circles, painted on the lawn to designate where groups can sit together and remove their masks. Masks must be worn when outside of the "pod."

4. Local Government Update

- a. Alderwoman Ward 6, City of Springfield: Kristin DiCenso – absent but provided an email update, delivered
 - i. Ward 6 had a very successful clean up in early May with over 60 participants
 - ii. Several inquiries about possible new businesses on the Boulevard
 - iii. Legacy Pointe Sports Complex will be voted on by Council on May 18
 - iv. Mayor's ward meetings are starting up again. The Ward 6 meeting will be second week of June.
- b. Alderman Ward 7, City of Springfield: Joe McMenamin
 - i. The City ended FY2021 (February 28) with a surplus
 - ii. Springfield ARP allotment is \$35M; these funds will have specific eligible uses
 - iii. Big issues for the Boulevard: \$25M construction project along the street
 - iv. Former MacArthur McDonald's having exterior repairs/upgrades by owners of Chatham Café but internal building permit denied
 - v. Developer interested in former Esquire lot to potentially build a large gas station, but seems to have backed off that proposal
 - vi. Former Red Cross building purchased by new owners; looking for additional tenants
 - vii. Boulevard Townhomes maintaining over 95% occupancy and doing well screening residents
 - viii. Principal Terrence Jordan of Black Hawk and Principal Tracy Gage of Butler have received promotions within the District and will be stepping away from their positions at our local schools.
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Mayor Mike Lopez
 - i. Absent, no report
- d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert
 - i. Absent, no report
- e. Board Member, District 23, Sangamon County: Kevin McGuire

- i. County has been working with Sheriff's Office and State's Attorney to address crime in unincorporated area immediately east of South Side Christian Church
 - 1. Discussion around a criminal building nuisance ordinance; ordinance has been drafted and will be introduced to the appropriate sub-committee in early June, and potentially to a full board meeting in June. This will give the County much more control over problem tenants and absentee landlords
 - ii. County Board districts will be redrawn due to Census results. McGuire looking to establish a 5-person committee to redraw the districts of the County in order to ensure this is a transparent process.
 - iii. Some constituents within the District have expressed concern about the recent death in the Jail, the use of tasers within the Jail, and the acquisition of an armored vehicle by the County Sheriff's Office. McGuire is committed to ensuring safe communities and safe policing.
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Sgt. Matt Doss (Supervisor)
 - i. Officer Badger retired in April; new NPO (same phone number as Officer Badger) Cody Musson will start in June. Sgt Doss can be reach at 217-331-3660 until that time.

5. Announcements

- a. Bites on the Boulevard schedule
 - i. Third Wednesdays this year
 - 1. June 16
 - 2. July 21
 - 3. No August event
 - 4. September 15
 - ii. We will continue to engage schools to support them.
- b. Thanks to Julie Dirksen for a very successful April Boulevard Clean Up and a special thanks to Pie's the Limit for donating pizzas to celebrate after.
- c. As Alderman McMenamin mentioned, Principals Gage and Jordan at Butler and Black Hawk are being promoted to working for the Central District Office. We will be honoring their service to neighborhood kids and to MBA at our June 2021 meeting. Interviews for the empty principal positions are going on now and we believe we will have an update by our next membership meeting.
- d. 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 8:17am

Respectfully submitted,
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary