



**August 2021 Meeting  
South Side Christian Church  
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard  
Thursday, August 12, 2021**

**August Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
    - a. Meeting convened at 7:31am
  
  2. **MBA Business**
    - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
      - i. Minutes will be approved at the September membership meeting
    - b. Treasurer's Report – Justin Creasey, absent – no report
  
  3. **Speaker(s):**
    - a. Michelle Tjelmeland, District 23 – September partnership for Bites on the Boulevard
      - i. 100% of proceeds from District 23 go back to Michelle's cochlear implant foundation
        1. Help deaf individuals purchase their equipment
    - b. Event will be held behind on the District 23 lot, parking available at Ergadoozy, on street, and former Esquire lot
    - c. Has seen the decline of many small businesses during COVID and wanted to organize something to help make it happen
    - d. Have 55 vendors signed up and a waiting list of additional vendors
    - e. Additional lighting has been reserved to illuminate the back lot
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4. **Local Government Update**
  - a. Alderwoman Ward 6, City of Springfield: Kristin DiCenso
    - i. Absent, no report
  - b. Alderman Ward 7, City of Springfield: Joe McMenamin
    - i. IDOT presentation held at SSCC on Wednesday August 11

- ii. Investment happening on the Boulevard: former Red Cross building getting a facelift, new parking lot; Town & Country Shopping Center also had a new blacktop parking lot installed
  - 1. Paul, Underdog Sports: New owners/managers of Town & Country Shopping Center have been responsive to tenant requests, such as sealing and repainting the lot. Hope to have the building painted.
  - 2. Steve, Town & Country Bank: Looking to demolish the bank's current location on MacArthur and rebuild starting Fall 2022.
- iii. Former funeral home directors' building had a large fill dirt pile which had to be negotiated to be removed
- iv. Former McDonald's on MacArthur is a good example of why we need to stay on top of landlords/property owners who let their property go
  - 1. Chatham Café owners have a lease on the property; started working on the property without permits and got shut down
- v. SPD is currently short 30-40 patrol officers. The training facilities shut down during COVID but have since reopened. They are full and hoping officers can be sourced to replace SPD's missing officers.
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Mayor Mike Lopez
  - i. Absent, no report
- d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert
  - i. Leland Grove will share the September Bites on the Boulevard
  - ii. Leland Grove PD also lost a police officer and are looking to replace that position as well.
  - iii. Leland House being torn down; home was never registered as a historic site and the property owner has complied with all regulations and is within his property rights to demolish the building.
- e. Board Member, District 23, Sangamon County: Kevin McGuire
  - i. Absent, no report
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Cody Musson
  - i. Took over in May after Officer Badger retired.
  - ii. Have had some nearby burglaries (College/Pasfield/1<sup>st</sup> Street area); no commercial burglaries however. Please remind customers and neighbors to lock their vehicles, garages, homes, etc..
  - iii. Provided a lot of backup support to officers responding to other calls for service given the shortage of patrol officers.

## 5. Announcements

- a. Introduction of new neighborhood area principals
  - i. At June 2021 meeting, we said goodbye and thank you to our beloved neighborhood principals so we wanted to also give a warm welcome to our new neighborhood principals.
    - 1. Blessed Sacrament School: Nicole Kuhlman
    - 2. Black Hawk Elementary: Stephanie McCorkle

3. Butler Elementary: Sarah Beveridge
  - ii. Three District 186 schools are all undergoing significant renovations as well.
- b. Abby Powell, City of Springfield: DCEO launched their Back 2 Business grant program that is focused on providing support to businesses that did not receive COVID assistance funds. The program is live now, but applications will be open for submission starting August 18.
- c. 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 8:09am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary