



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 11, 2014

Welcome: President Jen Dillman brought the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: August minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: as of August 31, 2014: total liabilities & equity: \$24,940.90

Guest Speaker: Victoria Ringer, Executive Director, Downtown Springfield Inc.

- DSI has been affiliated with the Illinois Main Street Program for 21 years.
- Purpose is to preserve, promote and enhance Downtown Springfield.
- DSI is known for events - Farmers Market is the premier event – plus, DSI works with other community organizations promoting downtown activities.
- Currently, DSI is suffering revenue losses over past two years due to extreme heat/rain during outdoor events and payment of City Services previously provided: cleanup and street cleaning.
- Fundraiser will be held September 18th and public is invited to help with this worthwhile community cause.

Government Update:

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:

- City Water Light & Power: electric rates have increased 50% since 2006. City is facing a possible 2nd technical default.
- Esquire Property: urged MBA members to stay united on plans for development.
- MacArthur Park Apartments:
 - 160 of the 180 apartments are occupied.
 - Police calls have been reduced by 50%.
- Cherry Road sidewalk will extend from MacArthur to Kenwood.

Alderman Ward 6: Cory Jobe: (was out of town due to a death in the family)

Announcements:

- Lisa Hills, County Board member: reported concerns re: County Nuisance Property Ordinance. She urged neighborhood residents to contact Crime Stoppers with neighborhood problems.
- Michael Higgins: announced the first "parklet" in Downtown Springfield will open September 12th in front of Maldaner's Restaurant on Sixth Street. The "parklet" will be a deck built on two parking spaces and serve as an extended outdoor dining area. Future "parklets" may be constructed for greenery, sitting areas or art displays throughout Downtown plus will provide a positive traffic calming effect.
- President Jen Dillman announced 2015 MBA Board Nominations will be presented at the November membership meeting.
- Numerous September neighborhood events were announced and members were invited to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Dirksen, Secretary