



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 8, 2015

Welcome: President Michael Higgins brought the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Daniel Shelton reported: As of Sept. 30, 2015: September income was \$2,975. Expenses were \$1,562.21. Account balance \$21,059.63.

Guest Speaker: Joe Gooden, Retired Springfield Zoning Administrator: Zoning 101 and how it affects MacArthur Boulevard.

- Served as City Zoning Administrator from 1990 – 2013.
- Zoning updates have been made but last comprehensive City zoning map was adopted in 1996.
- MacArthur Blvd. from So. Grand to Wabash has all but two of the 12 zoning districts: heavy industrial and S3.
- Zoning overlay to superimpose a consistent set of construction and landscaping requirements for MacArthur Blvd. has been considered; however, new rules do not apply to existing zoning unless property owner asks for a new use. New use or replacing current codes requests can go through City Council.
- Two major concerns on MacArthur are walkability and landscaping. Property owners are required by City Ordinance to maintain property. Violations should be reported to Zoning Department.
- What can MBA do? 1. Create a vision and put it to paper. (MBA already has in place: The Lakota Study.) 2. Meet with business owners/tenants re: plans and time tables. 3. Talk with Aldermen on City wide basis. 4. Stick with overall plan for redevelopment.

Government Update:

Alderman Ward 6: Cory Jobe: out of town

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:

- Congratulated MBA and Chair Katie Davison on successful Second Bites on the Boulevard.
- MacArthur Park Apartments: 44 apartment buildings will be upgraded including the Community Building. Current site landscaping will be upgraded and new installed. These measures constitute over \$15 million of improvements. The Illinois Housing Development Authority will vote for approval.

Jerome Mayor: Mike Lopez:

- New construction on the old Henry's location plus the adjacent vacant lot: an Asian Market.
- Vacant Flooring Depot business site has a potential developer.

Sangamon County District 23 Board Member: Lisa Hills

- Continues to work with current landlords to upgrade tenant standards.

Neighborhood Police Officer: Tamara Walcher: absent

- Alderman McMenamin reported for NPO Walcher: **only 1** disturbance during September!!!!!! OUTSTANDING.

Project Updates:

- MacArthur Blvd. Clean Up: Sat. Oct. 10th with Blessed Sacrament students– additional volunteers are needed.
- Sept. 29th Bites on the Boulevard: Katie Davison:
 - Thanked MBA volunteers; great community response; recognized vendors and acknowledged outstanding support from South Side Christian Church and Delta Church.
 - Proposal is to have one Bites each month during summer. Set plan for future development must be created. Additional MBA members are needed to assist.
 - Bites has become recognized as a Community Event which brings the city and local neighbors together.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Dirksen, Secretary