



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 11, 2016**

**Welcome:** President Michael Higgins brought the meeting to order.

**Secretary's Report:** December minutes were amended and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Daniel Shelton presented the Treasurer's Report as of Jan. 31, 2016: Income: \$390.00; Expenses: \$323.45; Total Assets: \$18,612.75. Report approved as presented.

**Guest Speaker:** Mark McWilliams, Copper Tree Outdoor Lifestyles

Springfield has a very weak landscaping zoning requirement and it is not enforced. Mark is one of two landscape architects in Springfield and there are very few plans requested for new or existing buildings.

Copper Tree is donating 200 fruit bearing trees to the City and will create an app to display their locations and when the fruit will be ripe. Members suggested having some along our bike paths.

He recently submitted a landscaping plan for the Old State Capitol

Mark explained new landscape developments including living walls and planting ideas for concrete surfaces.

Mark offered free assistance to any request by the MBA for landscaping designs.

### **Government Update:**

Alderman Ward 6: Cory Jobe: out of town

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:

Pies unlimited will be the new business for the old Ross Issac property and it will have a green buffer and outside sitting area.

Suggested the MBA reach out to the owners of Town and Country and offer assistance for beautification.

The Ruler Foods acquisition of the property north of Conklin has not been finalized. Joe will be a no vote on the city proposed budget.

Jerome Mayor: Mike Lopez:

Two businesses are in jeopardy of closing.

The state's budget impasse is having negative impacts for the village especially related to transportation projects.

Sangamon County District 23 Board Member: Lisa Hills:

Nothing to report

Officer Tami Walcher:

MacArthur Park Apartments had 18 calls for police action in January. Only 114 units of a total of 184 units are currently occupied. Plans are to gut and replace all units by the new owners. Rents will increase significantly from \$400 to \$700 per unit.

The new owners have a zero tolerance policy for criminal activity and have served several eviction notices after tenants being cited for illegal acts.

The city has initiated speed enforcement on MacArthur south of Wabash.

Officer Walcher has initiated her own panhandling policy by giving panhandlers garbage bags to clean public spaces of litter in return for her not issuing tickets to them.

There is a heroin epidemic in Springfield and it is resulting in a spike in overdoses. It is also increasing the number of petty crimes especially in thefts of unlocked cars and garages.

**New Business:**

There was no new business to come before the members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Dougherty on behalf of Secretary Loretta Durbin