



“Meet and Greet” Membership Meeting Minutes April 14, 2016

Welcome: Vice President Julie Dirksen

Speakers:

Doug Dougherty, President, Leland Grove Neighborhood Association, MBA Board Member:
What is a Neighborhood Association?

- Neighborhood Associations influence public policy by showing strength in numbers through Neighborhood Association activities
- For example, MBA instigated infrastructure improvements like the current IDOT study for MacArthur Boulevard.
- Can create unified focus on neighborhood problems, such as, in the Leland Grove/MacArthur Blvd. area: spot zoning.
- Collaboration with businesses; such as, Town and Country Bank, on its newly formed Community Development Corporation that will focus on vacant property.

Carol Kneeder: President, Inner City Older Neighborhoods (ICON)

- Supports Neighborhood Associations in areas of the city where residents and businesses share common goals;
- Works to prevent the deterioration of neighborhoods, maintain property values, and preserve neighborhood character by working on zoning issues, clean-up efforts, improved landscaping, preventing the encroachment of problem properties, and working with local police to insure safety of neighborhoods;
- Organizes and supports community events;
- Educates community about City services;
- Lists current Neighborhood Associations on ICON’s website (springfieldicon.org).

New Business

MBA Clean-Up/Green-Up Grants: Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Member

- Area: MacArthur Boulevard from South Grand to Interstate 72;
- Reimbursement ranges from 25% of cost or up to a maximum of \$500;
- Projects completed by September 1, 2016 qualify for consideration.

Public Meeting for IDOT feasibility study/MacArthur Blvd. improvements:

- April 21, 2016, 5-7 pm, South Side Christian Church

Bites on the Boulevard: Katie Davison, MBA Board Member

- Second Tuesday in June, July and August
- Location to be determined and volunteers needed
- Danenberger Wines, Engrained Beer and Rolling Meadows will participate.

Neighborhood Police Officer Tami Walcher introduced fellow City Neighborhood Police Officers who gave an overview of their individual area.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary