



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, May 12, 2016

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: March and April Minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: As of April 30, 2016: Account Balance, \$18,790.30; Income \$315; Expenses, \$308. Report was approved as presented.

Guest Speaker: Mark Mahoney, Director of Springfield Department of Public Works: IDOT Feasibility Study for Improvements MacArthur Boulevard

- Residents want to see improvements in the short term; such as, road overlay; improved access points, wider sidewalks and bike access.
- There is no funding for these projects. MBA urged to work with Alderman McMenamin to obtain funding.
- State willing to give City possession of MacArthur but City does not want it without the State making improvements.
- Long-term improvements could include improving streetscape and expanding MacArthur.
- Potential intersection construction: Laurel and MacArthur.
- Introduced representatives from IDOT. Ninety attended the public meeting to view study results. Will take three to six months to complete a final report. Expect IDOT to recommend multiple alternatives for the City to discuss.

Alderman McMenamin:

- Alderman said MBA is fortunate that Mahoney and engineers live in the neighborhood and care about the Boulevard.
- McMenamin pointed out complexities involved with MacArthur widening: for example, 16 businesses are located starting at Laurel & MacArthur and going north. Widening would require acquiring one third of each property.
- Alderman urged MBA members to push for next steps once the report is finalized.
- Two possible knockdowns anticipated on Cherry Road. Investments coming.
- Dial Court and Outer Park scheduled for new sidewalks.

Ruler Food (Michael Higgins):

- Nothing new since February. The contract for purchase is good through September.
- Ruler wants TIF support even though it was not part of the initial meeting with Hoagland and Ruler.
- Ruler wants construction to close off alley. No ordinance has been filed but could be done administratively.
- A copy of MBA's letter to Ruler was re-sent after Ruler indicated they did not receive the first letter. As yet, no response.
- Alderman will share a copy of Ruler's schematic with Doug Dougherty.
- Alderman will represent MBA views on Ruler to the City Council.

Mayor Lopez

- The new Asian Market on Wabash is having difficulty obtaining qualified workers due to lack of transportation. Market site will include video gaming parlor.
- Asian Market is considering the purchase of adjacent property for potential development:
- Iles Avenue is in bad shape and has no sidewalks for kids. Seeks help from IDOT and the City to make improvements.
- Drivers are creating a problem by using a closed off area near MacArthur Park apartments for parking.

Miscellaneous:

- Many use Dial and State Streets for biking. Mahoney was asked if City would install “Share the Road” signs. He agreed to look into it.
- Groundbreaking for Pies the Limit is today- May 12th. It is interested in making landscape improvements.
- Town and Country Shopping Center needs improvement.
- Distance between PayDay loan businesses is the only restriction affecting where they can locate.
- The Copper Pot, a new business near Pease’s, conducts cooking classes.

Announcements:

- Clean-Up/Green-Up Grant applications are available. Grants will pay for approved improvements valued at 25% of project cost up to \$500.
- Bites on the Boulevard
Tuesday, June 14, 2016
5 pm to 9 pm.
District 23 Parking Lot
1413 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Volunteer your time to make it a success.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin