

Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023
South Side Christian Church

Meeting convened at 7:41

1. Welcome: Michael Higgins, President

2. Board Reports

a. Secretary – Bill McMahon

i. Approval of June membership meeting minutes

b. Treasurer – Adam Cook

i. Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2023

3. Speaker: Inner City Older Neighborhoods (ICON) Chair Mark Mahoney

- Rebranding in process
- Began with 12 neighborhood associations and improving garbage collection. Technically a political action committee.
- Kudos to Polly Poskin.
- Succeeded in getting yard waste pickup easier.
- Acts as an advocate/resource for others on a number of issues.
- Publishes a candidate questionnaire.
- Visit our website.
- Get involved and hold your city government accountable.
- Infrastructure.
- Q/A:
 - Q: Mike Higgins: What about federal / state grants?
 - A: Ald. Conely: Under the previous admin there were at least three grants the city should have applied for and didn't. City doesn't have enough people to write grants.
 - Q: Permitting process was supposed to get easier. What's up with that?
 - A: City is supposed to be working on it.

4. Josh Sabo and Adam Cook unveil the survey. Pass it on!

5. Mike Higgins: Springfield has been designated an Environmental Justice Community. City can now apply for community solar. Especially for lower-income areas.

6. Local Government Update

a. Ward 6 report, Jennifer Notariano

- August 15 hearing to reestablish a business district. Keeping Scheels and adding farmland. State law requires that, to expand the district, the existing old one must be formally closed and the new one created.
- August 16, zoning hearing. Property at 3101 Macarthur Boulevard are petitioning to make changes.

b. Ward 8 report, Erin Conley

- Ditto the sports complex development.
- Authorized the \$250K city contribution to addressing homelessness/panhandling.
- Branch collection is continuing.

c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez

- Thanks to all parade attendees! About 1,000 people,
- Thanks to Hy-Vee for contributing food.
- Nieman has bought the Shop-n-Save site. Nothing will be happening for about 2 years.
- In 2013 Jerome was in debt. Now running a small surplus/rainy day fund.
- \$195K in revenue from video gaming.

d. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert

- Not present

e. Board Member, Sangamon County: Tony Del Giorno (unavailable this month.)

7. Announcements/Other Business

- a. Josh Sabo: Heartland House update.

- Looking to other communities (Example: Rockford) that are doing this successfully.
- Strategic plan is up at their website.
- Helping Hands is moving. New site will have more capacity to serve more people, and have other resources in-house.

8. Introduction of new members. Welcome!

Thanks to Heartland Bank & Trust for the coffee sponsorship!

Meeting adjourned at 8:35