

Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2023
South Side Christian Church

Meeting convened at 7:39 AM

1. **Welcome:** Michael Higgins, President

2. **Board Reports**

a. Secretary report – Bill McMahon

i. Approval of November membership meeting minutes

Moved & seconded.

b. Treasurer – Adam Cook

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

Moved & seconded.

3. **Speaker:** Officer Michael Newman. Officer Newman works with the City of Springfield's Community Care Coordinator and community partners to provide assistance in connecting people experiencing homelessness with local resources.

- Officer Newman unavailable.
- Josh Sabo steps up & speaks. Spent several days in Joliet learning and comparing notes on the subject of the unhoused.
- Working to stop treating homelessness as a crime problem
- Springfield received grant money to hire street outreach staff to work with Officer Michael Newman.
- Guest: Helping Hand center is doing great. Exec director (Laura) suggests just saying "hello".
- "A Check and a Checkup"
- President Higgins comments.
- Area homeless count has been rescheduled to February 26th due to the ice storm.

- President Higgins explains Helping Hands.

4. **Brooks Wilson** (Lead Pastor - South Side Christian Church) announces the church's Spring Block Party on April 20, 2024.

5. Local Government Update

a. Ward 6 report, Jennifer Notariano – Absent

b. Ward 8 report, Erin Conley

- Did a ride-along with officer Neuman. The importance of trust in that job. Current budget adds a second officer so there can be a period of introduction and staggered handoff.
- Water rates. 32% increase. But it comes to less than \$5/month for a typical customer. Springfield has seen a 70% increase in the price of water treatment.
- We lose 25% of our water from the point of distribution to the customer. 10% loss rate is the gold standard.
- Much maintenance has been deferred/should have begun this 10 years ago.
- This will allow us to bond out the cost of dredging out much of Lake Springfield.
- All the income from Hunter Lake goes into the water fund.
- We have only days of funds in the reserves.
- State and federal loans and grants to replace lead pipes.
- Used most of the available federal infrastructure money (ARPA American Rescue Plan Act) already, much of it working to fix the “combined sewer” problems.
- Water department staff and director are focused and dedicated.

c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez

- Trash is becoming an issue. Waste Management unresponsive. Lake Area is raising their rates.
- Sanitation district closing part of lles due to problems.
- Show-n-Save building - no news.

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

- Apologies for not being here for a while.
- Status quo in Leland Grove.

e. Board Member, Sangamon County: Marc Ayres, serving District 12.

- Been on the board for 1 year.
- Serves on several committees
- Director of the Humane Society.
- Fixing problems with Animal Control. Have achieved “no kill” status.
- Adoption fees will be lowered soon.
- Today is the first day of in-person voting at the County Building.
- Mental health issues persist at the county jail.
- Service backlogs to get inmates mental health services were created mostly by COVID-19, that backlog is being cleared.
- Carbon capture/sequestration. Board voted unanimously to reject one company's proposal as underdeveloped and dangerous. Waiting for the federal government to provide clear guidelines.

6. Announcements/Other Business.

Thanks to the Village of Jerome for the coffee sponsorship!

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 AM