



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2018

Welcome: Pres. Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: June minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: June Income: \$806.00; Expenses: \$308.00; Balance: \$16,880.39.

Guest Speaker: William O'Hearn, Director, Springfield Public Library

- The Library is bucking national average downward trends in library usage by as much as 7%.
- Overall 30% of the population lack access to the internet and 50% of those below poverty have no internet access.
- The Library offers extensive electronic resources of DVD's, e-books, audio books, and streaming of movies and TV series. Members can download books through *Hoopla*. So far 100,000 books are available and more will be added.
- Members can access e-resources like *Lynda.com*, an extensive database of self-paced learning videos covering a wide range of topics; and *Brain Fuse*, a online tutoring service for children and adults, that is available without charge to all schools and members.
- The Director would like to provide extension services to those who are homebound and set up pop-up libraries for a few hours weekly in 4 or 5 locations.
- Springfield's Library is the lowest funded library in the area: its budget has been cut by 11 percent (25% in real decrease).

Local Government:

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin

- The 20,000 African-American Motorcycle Club members who gathered in Springfield gave the local economy a welcome boost.
- After a long anticipated wait, a Marriott Extended Stay Hotel broke ground at Legacy Point.
- The City has completed re-surfacing Cherry Road from Bates Avenue to Hy Vee.
- The Boulevard Town Homes were successful in filling several vacant units during Boulevard Days.

Jerome Mayor: Michael Lopez

- The Mayor gave a heads-up to City officials that legislation gives the State the authority to charge a service fee on sales taxes that are locally generated.
- Shop & Save has not announced any future plans.
- Owner of Osaka was charged with tax evasion.
- The Village is always available to help in emergency situations and the Mayor urges all support services to work together during emergencies.

Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger

- Two burglary sprees involving more than 100 burglaries were busted with the arrest of the suspects.
- NPO Badger participated in the successful resolution of a recent hostage situation.
- To protect your Neighborhood be alert by watching neighbors' property and install security cameras, if possible.
- The graffiti "artist" is still active but the number of incidents has declined.

Announcements:

- Debbie Dunn, Assistant Principal of Black Hawk Elementary School, announced that \$1230 was collected at the July Bites on the Boulevard. She thanked MBA and said the money will be used for books and field trips for the students.
- Jess Weitzel said July Bites was well attended in spite of the threat of rain. Two trucks that had reserved space did not participate.
- Michael Higgins welcomed new business member, Underdog Sports, located in Town and Country. The business will work with Big Brother, Big Sister to enable children to participate in team sports.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary