



**South Side Christian Church Community Room
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
Thursday, August 8, 2019**

August Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome** – Michael Higgins
 - a. Meeting convened at 7:37am

2. **Board Reports**
 - a. Secretary’s Report – Jess Weitzel
 - i. No changes
 1. All approved
 - b. Treasurer’s Report – Justin Creasey
 - i. No report

3. **Speaker:** John Eck “Discussing the current state of the Boulevard”
 - a. Our “jurisdiction” is that we’re able to work within the curb and inner edge of the sidewalk
 - b. MacArthur Boulevard is an important arterial in Springfield
 - c. If we (MBA) can generate visible results, property owners would likely be more willing to buy into joining and participating in the organization
 - d. Aesthetic vision for Boulevard is needed: what do we want? What is required? What is feasible?
 - e. MBA meetings are preaching to the choir; the same people attend each month but we are not able to make advancements.
 - f. Currently 35 vacant properties along MacArthur Boulevard
 - g. Panhandlers, gravel, other property owners, activities along the alleys, storm water flooding
 - h. Ed Mahoney volunteered to reach out to owners of current for-sale properties to ask that they take care of the properties (for sale signs, weeds)**
 - i. We need a list of property owners to try and reach out to discuss small improvements**

4. **Local Government Update**

- a. Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso – no report
- b. Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin
 - i. Town & Country Shopping Center foreclosure
 - ii. Mayor is excited about the \$30MM that Governor Pritzker stated that he wants to invest into MacArthur Boulevard
 - iii. Building south of Firestone has a new owner and has been cleaned up
 - iv. Anyone can make a complaint to the City: call 789-2255 with issue and address
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez
 - i. Shop N Save property: Niemann's foods took over control of property (no intent to develop property in the near future/8-12 months)
 - ii. Jerome has approved commercial use in the Village of recreational marijuana to help raise capital for the community
 - iii. Village Trustees has sent out over 120 complaints to property owners to address issues on their property
 - iv. Working with Legislature to get commitments for improvements to Iles Avenue
- d. Board Member, Sangamon County: Lisa Hills – no report
- e. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert – no report
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger – no report

5. Announcements

- a. Last Bites on the Boulevard will be Tuesday, September 10th
- b. South Side Christian Church's Big Block Bash will be Sunday, August 25th from 5pm-7pm

6. Adjourned at 8:35am

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Weitzel
MBA Board Secretary