



**South Side Christian Church Community Room
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
Thursday, November 14, 2019**

November Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome** – Michael Higgins
 - a. Meeting convened at 7:40am

2. **Board Reports**
 - a. Secretary’s Report – Michael Higgins
 - i. Minutes approved as presented
 - b. Treasurer’s Report – no report

3. **Speaker:** Michael Phelon, Director of Lincoln Land Community College’s Open Door Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) and Candace Silas, program navigator.
 - a. WEI’s purpose is to train individuals in occupations leading to immediate employment.
 - b. Currently, 100 applicants have applied and 85 have completed the work force program. A \$1 million dollar grant will fund this program for 100 low-income students: 75% of which will be African American.
 - c. WEI will provide short-term post-secondary education/training programs to help participants gain employment in high wage jobs and assistance in securing in-demand employment.
 - d. Goal is to continue program after this first year.

4. **Local Government Update**
 - a. Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso
 - i. Phase One of the study for potential of building Sports Complex behind Scheels is completed.
 - ii. Spring Hill Suites complex is open.
 - iii. Ward 6 completed Fall Clean Up.
 - iv. Ward 6 meeting was well attended.
 - v. An ordinance has been filed regarding “net metering” for Ward 6 solar panel customers with CWLP.

- vi. Discussion regarding address the homeless population continues.
- b. Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamain
 - i. \$30.5 Million Dollar uplift has been awarded to MacArthur Boulevard Avenue: Wabash to South Grand. Much discussion as to how to create overall construction design.
 - ii. Hy-Vee development in September 2011 discussed regarding the ordinance development plan, completion of plan and resulting impact of Hy-Vee to MBA area.
 - iii. Members in attendance urged MBA to be involved in the grant plan, the purposed study and to keep MBA residents updated.
 - iv. Urged Ward 7 residents to attend Ward 7 meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 20th.
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez – absent, no report
- d. Board Member, Sangamon County: Lisa Hills
 - i. Reviewed multi-model center design to be located on South 9th and 11th street. Model will soon be available for public viewing.
 - ii. County Board voted for balanced budget.
- e. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert
 - i. Due to winter’s icy road conditions, more cleanup was required than ever before.
 - ii. Leland Grove worked with Sangamon County to clean Leland Grove alleys for debris and heavy standing water on roadways.
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger
 - i. Car break-ins continue; please ensure all doors are locked

5. Announcements

- a. President Michael Higgins introduced Carolyn Austin and Gary Moore, administrators of the Lincoln Land Area Agency on Aging. This program provides information and services on assistance for older adults and those who care for them. A new office space was purchased on MacArthur Boulevard with renovation beginning in January 2020. This 501C3 space for “Aging is Good” will serve 12 counties.
- b. David Farrell, chair of MBA Board nominating committee for 2020
 - i. Proposed slate of officers includes:
 1. President: Katie Daivson
 2. Vice President: Michael Higgins
 3. Secretary: Jessica Weitzel
 4. Treasurer: Justin Creasey
 5. Members at large: Julie Dirksen, Doug Dougherty, Loretta Durbin, Chris Hanken, Caleb Leach, Denise Perry
- c. MBA Annual Meeting
 - i. Thursday, December 12th at the Hy-Vee Market Grill

1. Breakfast served at 7:15am
2. Meeting starts at 7:45am

6. Adjourned at 8:45am

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Dirksen, MBA Board Member
Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary