

Member Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2023
South Side Christian Church

Meeting convened at 7:30 AM

1. Welcome: Michael Higgins, President

2. Speaker: Mike Murphy, President & CEO of The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce
 - Leadership Springfield this year has 42 young members meeting every Thur. Morning
 - Update on progress of storm recovery
 - City is still working with Fed Gov/FEMA
 - SBA will have a program but those will be low int/long-term loans
 - FEMA will have grants for the city \$22/23 million dollars of costs
 - Hotels on Dirksen suffered/last to come online (one of the best summers for hotel residency)
 - Hit after COVID, Chili Parlor did not reopen (only to close to his knowledge)

 - Chamber is having a disaster recovery seminar at LRS on Nov 1st details at [website/registration](#).
 - Breaking ground Sept. 20th for Scheels Sports Complex
 - Gives Scheels a neighbor
 - Outlet Mall was supposed to come
 - Ensure longevity of Scheels
 - Lease the building
 - What other businesses it will drive to the area
 - Dissolved the old business district 23 to bonding but not 23 of district

- Expanded the new business district to include new development area across the street.
- Meeting with Ryan McCready on IDOT/Blvd
 - Work closely together/speak daily.
 - Both grew up in Divernon
 - Jeff Myers with IDOT update on the land acquisition.
 - Businesses understand the ramifications of the redevelopment
 - Making sure the businesses are aware.
 - Share list of affected businesses with him
 - "Enhance our members success and advocate on their behalf" 9-word mission
 - "I don't work for the city, our funding is not by gov sources"
 - "Money is from our members so that's where my efforts go
 - "2nd largest Chamber in the state of IL"
- Don't spend money on capital improvement you'll get use of
- Chamber Activities
 - Goal to start a young professionals group
 - "A great society is made up of individuals willing to plant trees whose shade they'll never benefit from"
 - make sure Springfield is in better shape than I found it
 - RISE first event in February. Booked for 50 and had a 185
 - "An appetite for this"
 - Volunteer transition to job/raise funds
 - Young professionals who work for a member of the Chamber
- Cap the leadership program at 42 people

- Continuum of Learning project pre-Covid, daylong retreat last week with Growth Alliance, United Way, UIS to try and revive it. Maybe rebranded? Workforce development.
- Development Policy Council – meets with city/county/regional planning. Trying to improve zoning/permitting with the city. Needs improvement. “Finding reasons to say ‘No’ rather than work for reasons to say ‘Yes’”
- Paul complements Murphy, staff
 - Terry Hill Sales Rep
 - Melissa Horn Events Manager
 - Jasmine Dickerson Admin Assistant
 - Lisa Schafer VP of Operations
 - David Earhart VP of Membership
- No bad news from FEMA, weren’t concerned about loss of income, mostly structural damage/inventory loss
- Deadlines passed for business to apply? No
- Macarthur is going to be a challenge. No “magic bullet”
- 36 elected officials last night for members to talk with. From IL Supreme Court Justice to Library Board at the Illinois Realtors

3 Local Government Update

- Ward 6 report, Jennifer Notariano – Ill, sends regrets.
- Ward 8 report, Erin Conley – explains the business district. Dissolved the old and created new with full 23-year tax reinvestment. Final hurdle for the development

group. City council “didn’t know we needed to do this 3 years ago” Fund balance rolls into new business district. Doesn’t know the fund balance. Youth sports is big. Going to be busy. “It’s huge.” “Dirksen Pkwy was devastated but when this gets going those hotels are going to be packed.” “Obviously groundbreaking doesn’t mean completion.” “We have gone over a lot of hurdles.” “We’re seeing very real progress.” “Really Scott Dahl needs to come in and talk to you guys. They did research on the viability of this kind of a complex.” “There was a lot of solid backing for this.” “The Chamber came on board.” “It looks like it may actually payoff.” “If you’ve not yet been to Traveler’s Kitchen, it’s amazing.”

- Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez – Meeting with attorneys to discuss business district/TIF for Jerome. Bettendorf Iowa has rebounded because of the sports park there. “Going to be a big boost.” Neiman Foods says because of the development they are going to move forward sooner than 2 years suggested. Going to be a retail/strip mall/restaurant. “Hopeful there.”
- Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert – Not present
- Board Member, Sangamon County: Tony Del Giorno – First time as county board rep. Last month attended a USA EPA brownfield conference. Is the Sec Treasurer for the Moving Pillsbury Forward. Mayors will be partnering to apply for an EPA Assessment Grant. Would allow the City/County to do enviro assessments of older buildings because of unknown hazards. Lead/asbestos/storage tank that cause large costs. Coalition application will increase score and make money available this time next year if successful. Could help older buildings along MacArthur. “Forces are coming together to try and find new ways to get our share of the pot.” County business is probably the level of government under the radar. This week to help folks in Woodside/Jerome/Leland Grove. Partnered with Habitat for large item pickup. Residents can schedule 2 pickups per year (6) items total. Everything outside the City. Working on similar for recycling electronics at BLH. Remodeling the county offices for

ADA/electronics. Coroner's office, Sheriff's office, and evidence storage and SJR building. County building will have public offices on the first floor. Won't have to fight the elevator. 217-899-7776, text is best. Large item begins Jan 1st.

4. Announcements/Other Business

- New social communications strategy.
- Visited new restaurants
- Congratulate the city/school on new traffic/parking improvements
- Blackhawk has a FACE team combined meeting. Looking to engage the community into those meetings as well. Next meeting Oct 17 at Blackhawk 5-6. Normally the 2nd Tue. If no school Mon we change it. HyVee has been a supporter. Providing food, helping families. Focusing on College/Career. HyVee came in to talk about career paths.

Thanks to Mayor Mike Lopez for the coffee sponsorship!

Misc:

Oreo Maintenance (?)

Rehab rental houses.

Coming up is leaf season.

General contractor.

Meeting adjourned.