



## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, November 12, 2015**

**Welcome:** President Michael Higgins brought the meeting to order.

**Secretary's Report: October minutes were approved as presented.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Daniel Shelton reported as of November 5, 2015 - Total Assets: \$21,414.63. Membership dues received: \$509.00. Expenses: \$1,200.00 Bites on the Boulevard. Report was approved as presented.

**Guest Speaker:** Jess Weitzel: Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. Tactile Urbanism: A Community Development Tool.

- Jess is affiliated with Sustainable Springfield, which promotes responsible community planning.
- Tactile Urbanism is the term used for improving a community through small steps that add up to big changes. Ex: planting gardens on vacant lots; art in public places; "parklette", a seasonal outdoor dining patio.
- Process requires: defining the issue; brainstorming; project planning and ultimately, testing. The goal is to make something – even temporary – that will change how a project works and through small steps make big changes.
- These small scale interventions are characterized by their community focus and realistic goals.
- Bites on the Boulevard showed outdoor public eating venues via food trucks.
- Jess was invited to join MBA and help improve MacArthur Boulevard using Tactile Urbanism. She agreed.

### **Government Update:**

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin:

- Joe thanked South Side Christian Church for providing meeting space for the Ward 6 November 6<sup>th</sup> City Strategic Planning Meeting.
- MacArthur Park Apartments: Illinois Housing Authority has approved Bond request of \$50 million. Real Estate contract has not yet been completed.
- Esquire Lot Development: Kroger Ruler Food purchase has not been completed. Dollar General purchase has been approved.

Sangamon County District 23 Board Member: Lisa Hills

- Announced new neighborhood association: The Highlands Neighborhood Association: MacArthur Blvd to First Street – Outer Park to North Street.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Bites on the Boulevard: Chairman Katie Davison reported total MBA income for the September Bites on the Boulevard: \$1, 500.00. She announced a 2016 B/B Committee has been named.

### **Announcements:**

- Daniel Shelton, Southside Christian Church minister, announced SSCC plans to consolidate the church's two campuses to their 2600 MacArthur Boulevard site. Future expansion and construction will begin early 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Dirksen, Secretary