

## **MBA Membership Meeting Minutes on March 10, 2016**

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

**Secretary's Report:** February minutes were amended and approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Daniel Shelton presented the Treasurer's Report. As of February 29, 2016, Income: \$80; Expenses: \$330; Total Assets: \$18,677.75. Doug Dougherty recommended that \$5000 for Green/CleanUp grants be added to the 2016 budget.

**Guest Speaker:** Karen Davis, Director of Planning & Economic Development, City of Springfield

- Plans to make it easier to do business with the City across all departments.
- Will be pro-active in attracting new business to the City, work to redevelop the urban core, and work with TIF's in older corridors.
  - Will hire staff to act as the City's "salesman" to pursue businesses to locate in Springfield.
  - Attend conference on adaptive reuse of buildings.
  - Cited re-development of YWCA block as way to prevent sprawl.
  - Agreed to meet with MBA to discuss Lakota Plan.
- Wants to strengthen the relationship with County Regional Zoning Commission.
- Described development tools available to the City: Tax Increment Financing (TIF's), sales tax exemption and property tax abatement (Enterprise Zones) federal funds for low-income housing, emergency funds, funds to public service organizations.
- Wants to address the issue of vacant property in the city.

### **Government Update:**

Alderman Ward 6: Cory Jobe: out of town

Alderman Ward 7: Joe McMenamin: out of town

- President Michael Higgins reported he and Alderman McMenamin met with property owner, Eric Hoogland, Hoogland's attorney and realtor, Phil Spengler re: the potential property purchase by Ruler Food. No TIF money is involved in the project, thereby limiting the City's leverage in the project. However, Ruler wants a 15-foot easement from the alley and needs the City's approval. The project is not yet wrapped up.

Jerome Mayor: Mike Lopez

- Recognized Tim Landis for his article on re-building of tornado-damaged area by Chatham Rd. and Wabash Ave.
- Wabash property near Ward Insurance has been sold.
- Asian Market to open in 69 days.

- Village was notified by the Governor's office that their funds may be cut if the Governor's turnaround agenda does not pass. Mayor Lopez urged the Village residents to contact local legislators to support Governor's agenda.
- Offered to publish MBA meeting agendas in Village newsletter.

Sangamon County District 23 Board Member: Lisa Hills

- Property on Lenox and Glenwood Avenues has been placarded and Lisa continues to pursue County's help.

Neighborhood Police Officer Tami Walcher: Absent, in training.

**Discussion:**

- MacArthur Boulevard Green/CleanUp on MacArthur and So. Grand intersection:
  - Would MBA fund replacing planters and current plants?
  - How to work with City to set routine watering program?
- How MBA Green/CleanUp funding dollars could be used for new MacArthur projects.

**Announcements:**

- Membership: Katie Davison  
On line payments will soon become an option through PayPal. Members will be notified by email when it becomes available. Plans are to target businesses for memberships.
- MacArthur Boulevard Cleanup: Julie Dirksen  
Volunteers needed Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Franklin Middle School

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Durbin, Secretary