



MBA Membership Meeting Minutes, Thursday, December 8, 2016

Welcome: President Michael Higgins called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: November minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The annual financial report will be presented in January.

Board Reports: Doug Dougherty, MBA Board Member

- Bylaw revisions: Proposed new Bylaws reflect MBA's change in status formerly as MacArthur Business Association to its current status as MacArthur Neighborhood Association.
 - Bylaws were posted on the website prior to today's membership vote. No substantial changes have been made to posted Bylaws. Changes made were for clarification and typographical errors.
 - MBA voting members shall elect 7 to 20 Board members who shall represent the Board for a one year term.
 - Board may review Bylaws annually and can amend them.
 - Motion was made to vote on new Bylaws. Membership approved changes to Bylaws by voice vote.
- Nominating Committee: David Farrell, MBA member
 - The 2017 Slate of Officers: President, Michael Higgins; Vice President, Julie Dirksen; Treasurer, Doug Dougherty; Secretary, Loretta Durbin
 - At large members: Fred Coombe, Katie Davison, John LeValley, Daniel Shelton and Jess Weitzel.
 - Motion was made to vote on 2017 slate. Membership approved the slate as presented by voice vote.
 - Mary Pat Cavanagh was thanked for her MBA Board service for the past 2 years.

2016 Highlights: President Higgins

- President Higgins thanked Chair Katie Davison and Co-Chair Jess Weitzel for three successful 2016 Bites on the Boulevard events;
- Thanked Julie Dirksen for organizing and overseeing two MacArthur Boulevard clean-up days and the students and principals at Blessed Sacrament and Franklin Middle School who participated in the clean-up;
- The remodeling and new construction improvements that began earlier this year continue to be made at the MacArthur Boulevard Townhomes;
- MBA teamed up with Blackhawk School Principal, Terrance Jordan, to collect school backpacks and supplies for students.
- The MacArthur Boulevard neighborhood was designated by the Springfield City Council as "Bicycle and Pedestrian friendly."

2017 Overview: President Higgins

- New businesses: Free Press Coffee from Pittsfield, IL, will open a coffee shop at the corner of South Grand and MacArthur Boulevard, and

Starcrest Cleaners will open in a newly constructed building on MacArthur;

- Develop safe bicycle access to nearby City bike paths;
- Promote MBA's Clean Up, Green Up Grants program;
- Work on economic development of the Boulevard with the Springfield Department of Public Works.

New to the Neighborhood in 2016: President Higgins

- Dollar General: David Koehne, Manager, 1508 S. MacArthur Blvd. President noted the improved appearance of Dollar General property and thanked Joe McMenamin for his help in ensuring property in the area is maintained.
- Copper Pot: Denise Perry, 916 W. Laurel
Copper Pot provides cooking lessons to children and adults. Perry also hosts Slow Food meetings.
- Fox Run Restaurant: Todd Iverson, 1130 Legacy Pointe Dr.
- Pies the Limit: Chris Hanken and Vic Lanzotti, 1710 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Owner Chris Hanken grew up in the neighborhood.
- New location for FlipFlops: Val Kessler, 1820 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Val said she was happy she could stay on MacArthur and her business is doing well.

MBA Annual Awards: Julie Dirksen

- Outstanding Property Beautification: Created and maintained landscape that exemplifies a Green/Clean MacArthur Blvd.
 - Dieu's Alterations: Dieu Dang, owner, 1601 S. MacArthur Blvd.
 - Mai's Alterations: Mai Lopes, owner, 1509 S. MacArthur Blvd.
 - Outstanding Community Volunteer: Worked in partnership with Springfield Slow Foods to create and oversee Butler Elementary Community Garden:
 - Alana Reynolds
Tracey Gage, Butler principal, said the Garden presented a new way for the students to think re: growing and preparing food plus its positive impact on their life and health.
- Outstanding MBA Member: Provided all 2016 Bites on the Boulevard events with a free water station and Delta Church volunteer work crews:
- Jonathan Davis
Jonathan thanked Katie and Jess for their leadership with Bites and said it was exciting to see it gain momentum.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loretta Durbin, Secretary