

ICON - Regular Meeting - August 28, 2017
First Church of the Brethren
2109 Yale Boulevard, Springfield, IL

PRESENT: Bill Basket (LPNA), Kristin DiCenso (Alderman, Ward 6), Cut Drew (IPNA), Arlene Flury (VHNA), Dave Fuchs, Michelle Gillen (former Near South), John Kelker (United Way), Carol Kneedler (IPNA), Kerri Lewis (LPNA), Aaron McEvoy (Grand Central), Joe McMenamin (Alderman, Ward 7), Dee Nelson (VHNA), Paul O'Shea, Polly Poskins (HPNA), Lakeisha Purchase (Capitol Township Trustee), Sott Sanders (Habitat), Alderman Herman Senor, Ward 2), Cathy Twyman (VHNA), Suzie Weissberg (LPNA), Jess Weitzel

Carol called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved. There was no Treasurer's report due to the absence of Darrell Riffey. Current balance is \$6,013.87.

There was no City Council report due to the absence of Sharon Riffey.

Bill Basket reported on **problem properties**. He said the list he got was the same as the July list. He said the problem property committee will discuss this. Bill passed out problem properties check lists.

Carol discussed the **Comprehensive Plan**. She said it should be ready to view on September 12th. It will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission in October either on their regular meeting night or on a separate night. The Aldermen should get the Plan in early November. Alderman changes will be input into the plan. Carol again said she is very pleased with the plan.

Carol reminded everyone of the **Regional Neighborhood Network Conference** in Evansville, Indiana on October 6 and 7. She said there are many interesting topics to be discussed. Carol said she is planning to go and at least one person from the City is going.

She gave a report on the **steering committee meeting on 8/21**. She said they discussed the **ICON annual meeting**. The date had to be changed. The annual meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 13th at the Inn at 835**. Tickets will be \$35.00. No speaker has been decided on yet. Nominations for annual awards are now open, and one nomination has already been received. Nominations will be accepted through October. The Steering Committee will make the decision in October and awards will be presented at the annual meeting in December. The web site has a list of all past award winners.

Polly introduced our guest speaker, **Debra Hereford, Director of Section 8, Private Landlord Program, Springfield Housing Authority**. Jackie Newman, Executive Director of the Springfield Housing Authority was also present.

Debra provided us with a vast amount of valuable information regarding Section 8 housing. She told us they currently have 2,083 families receiving vouchers for housing and that there are 2500 on the waiting list. Assistance is based on income. She explained

that all participants must have an orientation and learn the does and don'ts, the rules and regulations. She talked about inspections. She said they have about 450 landlords. She is holding a Landlord Workshop on September 20 from 6:00 - 8:00 in the Lincoln Library. She explained the family self-sufficiency program and passed out a brochure.

Jackie said that SHA owns and operates 900 public housing units. That is not including the Section 8 housing. There is still a shortage of affordable housing.

Ward 2 Alderman Herman Senior reported on the opening of the first section of the 11th Street Extension. He said that the council will vote on EmberClear tomorrow night. He said Corrections is looking at a new building at Concordia Court. He talked about the shootings and how we can combat gun violence. He talked about The Outlet which averaged 60 kids a night over the summer.

Ward 6 Alderman Kristin DiCenso said there was a shooting in her Ward at the barber shop on Cedar. She talked about a reported shooting at Baskin Robbins that did not actually happen. She said we need to be careful with social media. She said that the EmberClear vote at City Council is only to approve the enterprise zone. The plant would be located in Pawnee. They would have 24 months to build the plant.

Carol ask if there was ever talk about CWLP moving away from coal. DiCenso said there is talk. It is a possibility.

Alderman DiCenso stated that there will be a WMAY radio tour of Wards. Alderman DiCenso said that Ward 6 would be held at Taco Gringo on South Grand from 6 to 9 am, on October 23. It would be a live broadcast. Alderman Senior said the Ward 2 live broadcast would be held on September 25th at Boyd's from 6:00 - 9:00 a.m.

The "Y" block was discussed. There are currently 3 options. Jess said they can be viewed at nmb.springfield.il.us.

We briefly discussed ways to improve inner city neighborhoods and how to address the recent shootings.

Lakeisha Purchase, Capitol Township Trustee, told us about programs provided by Capitol Township. She suggested that we have a representative from Capitol Township come to one of our meetings.

Upcoming Dates

- Problem property committee meeting September 20th at Bill Baskets house.
- ICON September meeting - omprehensive Plan. Date has not yet been set.
- Announcements were made of various neighborhood association events.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie Weissberg