

ICON - Regular Meeting - January 30 2017
First Church of the Brethren
2109 Yale Boulevard, Springfield, IL

Members

Jamie Adaire (BPNA), Bill Baskett (LPNA), Carrie Becker (HWSNA), Sam Cahnman, Kurt DeWeese (HWSNA), Arlene Flury, Carol Kneedler (IPNA), Kevin Milhelcic, Paul O'Shea, Polly Poskin, Darrell Riffey, Sharon Riffey, Ernie Slottag (CCNA), Jill Steiner, Leza Ulrich, Marty Vandiver, Suzie Weissberg, Terry Young (TGHOA)

Participants

Dave Fuchs, Rhiannon Gurley (Our Vibrant Community), Dameon Johnson (ESS), Sam Johnson (ECC), Tony Leone, Mark Mahoney (City of Springfield), Danyel Pitts (EPNIA), Dave Steward (SIU School of Medicine)

Carol called the meeting to order.

Minutes, provided by Secretary Suzie Weissberg were approved as read.

Treasurer Darrell Riffey gave the treasurer's report.

Carol passed out the calendar for 2017

The May meeting is moved up one week to May 22 to avoid Memorial Day weekend.

There will be no September meeting - go to the RNNC Conference. The meeting of 2/27 will feature the candidates for Ward 6, and at the meeting on 3/27 we will debate an endorsement.

Report from the Steering Committee meeting held on 1/23/17

- Reviewed the Annual meeting and ideas for the 2017 annual meeting.
- Discussed the Enos Park's Access to Health Care which can be viewed in Enos Park's newsletter. It showed a huge need and questioned ways to continue the services when the grant runs out.
- Discussed the need for a City Planner.
- Carol said we will continue to visit Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Discussed possibility of a mass mailing in the future now that we have some money from the Annual meeting.

Sharon Riffey gave the **City Council report**. She said that CWLP challenged the fees from the wind power contract and received a 9 Million dollar wind fall which will be used for environmental needs.

She reported that the YWCA started demolition today. The governor's mansion will be moving their main entrance gates to Jackson Street.

Marty Vandiver reported on **Membership**. He said he plans to get an updated list of neighborhood associations and that we are going to contact them to see if we can increase those represented at ICON.

Members present introduced themselves and indicated the Neighborhood Association that they belonged to.

Guest Speaker Public Works Director, Mark Mahoney.

Director Mahoney started by saying that about 6 months ago the garbage haulers asked for

a rate increase. In negotiating the increase the City negotiated three items. Accountability, Enforcement and waste and recycling. He explained the new procedures and said that chronic offenders will have their garbage bill placed on their utility bill. We should see progress early to middle of summer. He said the new ordinance is a work in progress.

He said that Public Works has a new Division Manager for housing. He is Darrel Paris, a strong neighborhood supporter. They are making a lot of adjustments and hope we will see improvements.. He said they have also hired Adena Rivas as a Community Coordinator. They plan to put some focus on educating. He said some areas are more challenging such as the Pillsbury Mill area. He suggested we invite Adena to one of our meetings.

He said they were starting a policy for door hangings with warnings of possible violations. Carol asked if ICON could have some to use.

Director Mahoney heard a lot of comments and suggestions and answered a lot of questions.

Carol wondered if neighborhood associations could have any input in the City's court. She thanked the Director for his time.

City of Springfield Budget

We then discussed the budget. City Council Chair Sharon Riffey explained the four tax proposals:

- 2017-034 is a communication tax. It would increase the tax rate from 4% to 6%. This tax is on land lines and voice only on cell phones and will go to the Library.
- 2017-035 is a 4% tax on Ameren natural gas. This is a new tax will most likely be passed on by Ameren to their customers. It would be used for city pensions and equipment.
- 2017-036 is a hotel/motel tax which will go to fund Oak Ridge Cemetery.
- 2017-037 is the local sales tax which is proposed to go from 8 1/5 to 8.75.

The City is estimating that this will cost the average household \$5.00 per month.

After some discussion it was moved by Sharon Riffey and seconded by Arlene Flury that ICON take a position on the tax increases and that we speak in favor of the tax Ordinances at the February 7th City Council meeting.

Sports Complex Proposal Presentation

Sam Johnson and Damien Johnson presented their vision of a complex that would include various sports venues to allow the City to host more sporting events and make Springfield host to many visitors. The Star Village project is being promoted by the East Side Springfield Community Center Commission (ESC 3). The total cost of the project is \$250m. The project has bank backing, and the bank has a pool of investors. There would be no local investors, but they ESC3 is requesting help from the city in the form of a tax that would provide money for the project. The project would bring approximately 2000 new jobs to Springfield with possible locations on Dirksen Parkway or Stanford and 11th street. Their plan is to begin in 2018 with an opening in 2019. Information was passed around.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie Weissberg