

Springfield ICON Membership Meeting
May 24, 2021
Zoom Conference

Present: Carol Kneeder, Jess Weitzel, Mike Jackson, Kurt DeWeese, Lynn McMenamin, Donna Mathis, Abby Powell, Marty Vandiver, Bill Baskett, Jill Steiner, Kristin DiCenso, Mark Mahoney, Paul O'Shea, Polly Poskin, Lakeisha Purchase

1. Convened at 6:01pm
2. Discussion: Mike Jackson – The Failure of Historic Preservation as a Planning Tool
 - a. Addressing ICON as a retired State official as a historic preservationist
 - b. Acknowledged loss of Jerry Jacobson last year, a significant advocate for historic preservation in Springfield
 - c. Acknowledged the value of Floyd Mansberger at Fever River Research and his skill set as a historian and researcher has been a wonderful resource for historic preservation in the community
 - d. Recently provide an op-ed in the Illinois Times criticizing the larger historic preservation effort and also the failure of the City's planning department
 - i. The City of Springfield is one of largest cities in Illinois that does not have a planning department
 - ii. Zoning is largely outsourced to Sangamon County
 - iii. There does not appear to be a desire to adopt evolving Smart Growth best practices around planning, such as impact or development fees
 1. Springfield is very reactionary, not proactive
 - iv. In 2002, the American Institute of Architects (RUDAT) came to town to do a survey of the community
 1. Springfield had a unique ordinance requiring 100% of property owners to sign on to become a historic district; eventually the City changed it to 2/3, which is still higher than the typical majority requirement in other communities' ordinance
 - v. Loss of YWCA; a project involving rehabbing the building was an example of a missed opportunity
 1. Repeated the mistake with the YMCA building
 - vi. Need to leverage our history better outside of Abraham Lincoln
 1. African American History
 2. Julius Rosenwald
 - vii. Additional discussion occurred during Mr. Jackson's Q&A. A recording of the presentation can be found here: <https://springfieldicon.org/meetings/icon-may-2021-membership-meeting-mike-jackson-on-historic-preservation-city-planning-older-neighborhoods/>
3. ICON Business
 - a. Secretary's Report
 - i. Motion to approve March 2021 meeting minutes as presented
 1. No discussion
 2. Minutes approved

- b. Treasurer's Report:
 - i. Total Account Balance as of 4/31/2021: \$8,272.19
 - 1. Income: \$40.00 (membership renewals)
 - 2. No expenses
 - ii. All approved
 - c. City Council Update
 - i. Legacy Pointe Sports Complex
 - 1. Extensive ongoing discussion; both City and developer have "a lot of skin in the game"
 - a. Amendments expected before passage
 - ii. Alderman Gregory bringing aware to problem businesses that aren't operating to City ordinance standards; specifically an issue with Family Dollar in Ward 2
 - iii. Alice Raimey gave a public comment shout out about ICON issue around problem landlords
 - iv. \$4M project – lead water line replacement over two years (about 300 lines/year; would only replace 10% of existing lead pipes); Alderman McMenamin requested more bidders.
 - v. Public request for Springfield to sign onto petition asking for Springfield to get approved for a casino by the State
 - vi. Mayor thanked the Urban Forestry Commission for their Arbor Day activities in April. Committed to planting 1,000 trees/year to replace losses from Emerald Ash Borer
 - d. Problem Property Update
 - i. New Garbage platform is ready for membership review.
 - ii. Bill Baskett and Jill Steiner will work to present to the Mayor and alderpeople ahead of publicly presenting the platform.
4. Membership Open Discussion
- a. Robust discussion held on the issue of fly dumping, how to get property owners to better manage their commercial and residential tenants' waste/trash, and also on the status of renewing the Enos Park TIF (two taxing bodies have yet to sign onto renewing the TIF so that it can be presented to the State General Assembly for approval).
5. Unfinished Business
- a. None
6. New Business
- i. Next Problem Property Committee meeting – 5:30pm June 3rd
 - ii. Next Steering Committee meeting – 5:30pm June 21st
 - iii. Next Membership meeting – 6:00pm July 26th in person at Iles Park. This will be a belated celebration of ICON's 10 year anniversary. Snacks and dessert will be served.
7. Adjourned at 7:04pm
- a. Motion to adjourn made by Carol Kneeder
 - i. Seconded by Jill Steiner
 - ii. All approved

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Weitzel
Springfield ICON Steering Committee Secretary