

SOM Board of Director's Meeting MINUTES

February 19, 2015 – 12:00 – Springfield on the Move Office

ATTENDANCE: Tom Herson, Sandy MacGillivray, Buddy Dexter, Carolyn Lane, Mary Perry, Rod Arnold, Alan Woodbury, Diane Parker, Jason Rasmussen, Heather Hartford, Jen Johnson **EXCUSED:** Marie Gelineau, JoAnne Bohlen, Barbara Sanderson, Carol Eramo **STAFF:** Carol Lighthall, Bob Elkinson

Call to Order : Carolyn Lane called the meeting to order at 12:00

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Organization

MINUTES of December 18, 2014 and January 15, 2015 were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REVIEW for January 2014 was provided by Buddy Dexter. He reported that each budget category of Operating, Market and Other are ahead of budget, through January amounting to a positive \$11,496. It is expected that the trend will carry to year-end, though no major revenue is expected during the same period.

Design Report - The Good Buy Store, Community Center, Springfield Post Office. SEVCA plans new signage and a color change to the façade. The community center plans a thorough exterior scrubbing, some painting and covering of upper windows. The Post Office is seeking approval to paint exterior windows (trim) and interior, update landscaping using RVT student help. All waiting on DOC contracts.

Promotion Report - Caro L. reported for the promotions committee, stating that the new Storefront Display Program "Windows for Springfield" had started in earnest in February with very positive results and strong participation. A VCF grant is pending to help with the cost of design supplies. A Market Madness planning meeting is being scheduled. Carolyn Lane reported that event this year is Sept. 5th and it is hoped that the event will bring strong board and community support, she circulated an event sign-up for board members. More to follow on Market Madness!

Economic Development - Carolyn L. reported that a designer was working on the downtown brochure to create a final design; Carol Lighthall added that the bakery project continues to move ahead at One Main, though it has along taken much longer than expected. Discussions continue too with an interested party for the Odd Fellows Bldg, providing technical assistance as needed. It is expected that SOM will be repaid for the inside work done by DOC. The Woolson Block movement also continues, the property owner has agreed to an appraisal to be completed by the end of March. Steps are being taken to consider and develop possible tenants should the building move to redevelopment (SHA Lead).

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Partner Updates – SRCOC – Jen Johnson indicated that there was a strong turnout for the Winter Carnival, the Claremont Savings Bank changeover is in process and they want to be involved in the community. An auto parts company will take up to the two big spots at the plaza and employ 10. She added that the legislative breakfast is 2/23rd and the Governor is visiting on March 9th, SRDC – Heather Hartford announced that the brewery will open in the Summer, they are working with a software company prospect, litigation on J&L has been finally completed, allowing demolition and clean-up to continue. The Jones Center "Baker" space is now vacant and SRDC is working to liquidate the assets left behind, Springfield Select Board – no report, SWCRPC – Jason reported that the bike feasibility study has been completed, the project is feasible, but expensive. Grant applications will be pursued. The downtown transportation fund is being considered to update sidewalks on Valley Street. Steps are being taken to expand the bike path in and around J&L. He provided an update on the Downtown Master Plan effort, reviewing map components, public engagement and other project deliverables/timetable. He also circulated information from the Chester Master Plan related to Arts, Culture and Dining.

Farmer's Market Update - Carol L. reviewed that the farmer's market Season six will open on May 30th. The vendors are expected to meet sometime soon.

Other Business – Carol L. reported that the Rotary Fundraiser has gone along amazingly well and thanked everyone for helping out with special thanks to Buddy Dexter for leading the charge! Carol L. added that she has been working on a loan program for downtown (more to follow), she assisted Parks & Rec with a complicated grant application for Riverside Playground. Carol added too, that she has been participating in the Project ACTION initiative and is a member of the housing and community sub-committee.

Date for next meeting: **March 19th** (3rd Thursday of the month), Location TBD

Adjournment: Carolyn adjourned the meeting at 1:15PM.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Lighthall