

**Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission
Lincoln Land Community College
Virtual Meeting
12:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 29, 2021**

MINUTES

Present:

Charlene Aaron, Commissioner
Erica Austin, Commissioner
Ryan Croke, President
Aaron Gurnsey, Vice President
Joe Hurwitz, Secretary

Gurpreet Mander, Commissioner
Jack Mazzotti, Commissioner
Norm Sims, Commissioner
John Stremsterfer, Ethics Officer

Absent: Egbe Egiebor, Rex Brown

Staff Support: Ramona Metzger (Treasurer), Abby Powell (Staff Support)

Other Guests: Kayla Graven (Executive Director, DSI), Ryan McCrady (President and CEO, SSGA), Michelle Ownbey (Enos Park), Gail O'Neill (Director, Sangamon County Public Health Department), Chris Cousins (Springfield Clinic, for Ray Williams), Jim Langfelder (Mayor, City of Springfield)

1. Call to order and roll call

President CROKE called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm after noting a quorum was present. Attendance as indicated above.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the July 8, 2021 Commission meeting

On a motion by Commissioner HURWITZ, seconded by Commissioner GURNSEY, Commission members unanimously approved the minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting.

3. Financial Report:

METZGER notes no change in the balance of the Commission account. Additional financial reports will be provided at the next meeting.

4. Stakeholder Updates:

- Dr. Mander, on behalf of HSHS, expresses thanks for collaborating on the response to the Covid pandemic. Still working through issues related to vaccine mandates.
- Gail O'Neill notes that vaccines may be available for children ages 5-11 beginning in October. She hopes that parents will take the opportunity to get vaccinated with their children. She notes that numbers of new covid-19 infections are going down, and there are still over 30 Sangamon County residents in the hospital due to Covid. Director O'Neill encourages everyone to get a flu shot.
- Mayor Langfelder thanks the commissioners for their work with the medical district. He also requests a letter of support for extending the Enos Park TIF District.
- Michelle Ownbey notes current projects including extending the Enos Park TIF, Federal Home Loan Bank program, and IHDA Strong Communities grant.

- Ryan McCrady discussed the Growth Alliance’s commitment to support the MIMD Commission, specifically in hosting the web site. Without objection, SSGA will move forward with modernizing the Medical District’s web site.

5. Public Comment (none)

6. Old Business

- a) HOUSING – Abby Powell provided context for the draft letter of support, which will allow the City and Enos Park Development to use Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) grant funds for purchase of vacant lots.
- b) TIF – HURWITZ and SIMS expressed strong support for the extension of the Enos Park TIF. CROKE will send the letter of support to the Mayor and his team today.

7. New business

- a) Comprehensive Plan for Downtown and the Medical District.
CROKE discussed the origins of the concept, primarily related to the Community Foundation’s Next Ten project. STREMSERFER noted the support of the City, DSI, and the Growth Alliance for the project. The RFP is being drafted and Community Foundation will issue it shortly. Ryan McCrady discussed the importance of having a plan when reaching out to developers. Mayor Langfelder described the importance of having a unified plan for Downtown, Enos Park, and the Medical District. SIMS, generally supportive of planning, expressed some concern over the nature and scope of the plan. AARON discussed the workforce attraction efforts of St John’s Hospital. She added that there are nursing students who travel up to an hour in each direction to attend the program and echoed the support for housing development. GURNSEY expressed support for additional development in the Medical District; he would like to see additional growth.

8. Adjourn

On a motion from Commissioner SIMS, Second by Commissioner HURWITZ, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Joe Hurwitz, MIMD Commission Secretary