



# MID-ILLINOIS MEDICAL DISTRICT

Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission

4:00 p.m., Thursday, April 13, 2023

## MINUTES

### **Present:**

Charlene Aaron, Commissioner  
Ryan Croke, President  
Joe Hurwitz, Secretary  
Davida Fanniel, Commissioner  
Aaron Gurnsey (Vice President)

Jack Mazzotti, Commissioner  
Norm Sims, Commissioner  
John Stremsterfer, Commissioner

**Staff Support:** Abby Powell, Ramona Metzger\*

**Absent:** Gurpreet Mander (Commissioner)

**Other Guests:** Brian Zilm (Representative Budzinski), Jerry Kruse (SIU), Robert Ellison (Memorial Health), Ed Curtis (Memorial Health), Steve Welch\* (State Representative Scherer), Matt Fry\* (St. John's Hospital)

\*denotes attendance by zoom

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### **1. Call to order and roll call**

President CROKE called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm after noting a quorum was present. Attendance as indicated above.

### **2. Minutes of the February 9, 2023 Commission meeting and Financial Reports for February and March**

SIMS moved that the minutes and financial report be considered as one, with unanimous approval.

On a motion by Commissioner CROKE seconded by Commissioner GURNSEY, commission members unanimously approved the minutes of the February 9, 2023 meeting and the financial reports for February and March 2023.

### **3. Stakeholder Updates:**

- Dr. Charlene Aaron – St John's College of Nursing is preparing for graduation May.
- Dr. Kruse – SIU will have 72 graduating medical students and this is a record-year for the number of students staying in the community (27%).



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- Ed Curtis – Worried about ability to take care of the poor in central Illinois. It is essential to build local capacity. Additionally, there is a labor shortage in the medical field in our community – an enormous need for health care workers, especially nurses.
- Norm Sims poses some questions regarding development opportunities for medical-related businesses. Dr. Kruse identified educational opportunities including MD/JD, MD/PHD, MD/MPA programs. Additional notable areas of research include women’s health care, Alzheimer’s disease, reconstructive and regenerative medicine, hearing loss, and technology transfer. Ed Curtis identified infrastructure as the most important component to drive development and specifically noted the ongoing rail relocation project.

#### **4. Public Comment:**

- None.

#### **5. Old Business**

- MIMD Funding for housing included in the state budget bill. Funding has yet to be released.
- Master Plan for Downtown and Mid-Illinois Medical District. May 18<sup>th</sup> is the next opportunity to participate. There will be a visioning workshop held at Memorial Learning Center
- Bi-Annual Report – send suggestions to Abby or Ryan
- Statements of Economic Interest – reminder to submit.

#### **6. New business**

- Collaboration with Illinois Medical District on ARPA-H Proposal. There is an opportunity to visit the Illinois Medical District to identify areas to collaborate. If Commissioners are interested, please let Abby or Ryan know.
- Public Art – Springfield Art Association is interested in collaborating on mural installations for the Medical District. The executive director, Betsy Dollar, is asking for suggestions on locations for murals.

#### **7. Adjourn**

On a motion from HURWITZ, and a second by CROKE the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Joe Hurwitz, MIMD Commission Secretary