

WARD 4

2016 Ward Meeting

What would make Springfield the “Model” city?

- More things for youth to be involved in. Positive things – not just in sports.
- Focus on more education. State of the art facilities. Build high schools, middle schools and use better technology
- More young people to be contacted about what they want to see. Multi-generational outreach to see what they want.
- Expanding fiber from CWLP to residential (give residents options of provider)
- Pedestrian-friendly
- Safe
- General look. Right now dilapidated buildings, bad sidewalks, abandoned properties. Make green spaces instead of weeds
- Highlight educational communities
- Grow higher education including technology and other model industry
- Route 66 is an international attraction. Need to develop more.
- Community service vs. fines. Judge may be able to provide this to help improve our problem priorities.
- Developing the property around the Executive Mansion. Instead of concrete canvas, make it a park or green space.
- Annex the fair into the City.

Issues

- High Speed Rail – impacting Lanphier High School
- Noise ordinance
- Get rid of railroad noise. Why are they putting wrought iron instead of sound proofing?
- Need to mow the railroad properties
- Distribution of funds. Veterans Parkway gets paved all the time but the Northend needs more love with the roads
- Railroad needs to be mowed more. They need to be fined
- 100 Block of North 8th (house next to 2102)
- Weeds along viaduct on 9th cut but do it more
- Tree cutting by city is bad
- A TIF District to help clean up the Peoria Road
- Get civic organizations involved like the Lions Club; Jaycees; Rotary. Youth aren't getting involved and it is hurting our community.
- Abandoned houses but we need to be more proactive. Can we give them to Habitat for Humanity?
- N. 9th Bus Route: why does it end at night and time changes? It makes it difficult to get to work.
- Improve Education – allow people to choose the high school
- Education is very difficult for kids who need certain curriculum. Each offers different types of classes. But only option is moving a family and that shouldn't be the only way to fix that.

- Parents need to be pushing and be more active in school issues. Don't just leave it up to the administration. Push the issues with PTO; administration – continuing problem because no one is stepping up to the plate. Parents need to be involved.
- Tax revenue needs to stay in District if you are taxed by the City, the money should stay in the City.
- Taxing bodies – if you get it from the City you should live in the City (i.e. Teachers)
- Hole in the donut needs to be addressed
- Bloomington – look at it for a District model. It is a county wide district vs. Springfield that has pockets.
- Economic Development other than retail. Look at production, manufacturing. Retail cannot sustain the community.
- Utilize more buildings downtown for the State. Get them outside of Chicago.
- Weekend transportation for disabled service.
- Don't waiver on Hunter Lake because we need an alternative water source. Or shut up about it.
- Try to get people to stay
- We have a strong baseball history. Temporary home for a sports hall of fame but need a permanent place. Development of another professional baseball stadium.
- Balanced place for seniors. There are seniors who want to stay on northend but nowhere to go on the northend and all assisted living facilities on the westend. Look at that for a development opportunity.
- Moderate cost for northend homes for seniors on fixed incomes
- Redevelopment of the Pillsbury Mills area
- Want kids and families to stay in our neighborhoods. Families need to unify and band together – strong parent involvement. That's what gets things done.
- Taxpayers need to be able to get involved in schools because even if we don't have kids, we should be able to get involved.
- Can we see the District 186 reports? Link on the City website?
- Curriculum myth or truth – different at every school
- The underpasses need to have nicer looks vs. a rustic look.
- Factory Road – all of that is not mowed. If it is my property you would fine me.
- Overpass is ugly along Ninth Street
- Too many rentals along the park – no one mows the lawn
- House numbers are getting taken off houses and need to be better
- Federal certification process to mow railroad. Can residents get people to go through it to get it done?
- Poor job on Peoria Road. Too many weeds. North on 8th Street.
- 9th and Percy (Elizabeth & Griffin) – Oil Roads. They are no longer chisled down and 8th and 9th – not done yet
- New baseball stadium