



St. Joseph County
Health Improvement Alliance

Meeting Minutes Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020

Howard Park Community Center

Thanks to Saint Joseph Health System for providing breakfast.

Find a list of members, upcoming events, and past minutes at www.healthalliancesjc.org.

- 1) Jim Baxter, Alliance coordinator, welcomed members. On behalf of FSSA, he encourages all to continue to work on enrolling residents in Gateway to Work even though the work requirement has been temporarily suspended in the wake of a federal lawsuit. He thanked the staff of Venue Parks & Arts (SBVPA) for use of the Howard Park meeting room. Howard Park will be our permanent meeting spot.
- 2) Nicole Rehlander and Becky Lies reported on the results of a recent HIA communications survey. The survey verified that all-group meetings four times a year was perfect; a large majority also would appreciate networking opportunities. They are seeking further input on what these meetings should look like, and who might help manage them. Members also were encouraged to visit the website and explore its many uses.
- 3) Aaron Perri, executive director of SBVPA, welcomed the group and gave a presentation, noting:
 - a. SBVPA has made vast improvements to the city's parks after seeking much public and neighborhood input. More than \$60 million has been invested, 1/3 from TIF funds; 1/3 from bonds and 1/3 from privately raised funds. Major improvement projects include Howard Park, Erskine Manor Clubhouse, Leeper Park, Charles Black Recreation Center, upgraded park bathrooms (ADA accessible now) and a mobile park asset called BOOMER.
 - b. The renovation of Howard Park has earned a Midwest Magazine "#1 Place to Visit" designation. Perri described the history of Howard Park from a dump (in the late 1880s) to a residential area to a casual park. In 1958, the city opened the former clubhouse/ice skating rink/playground facility. This new iteration, with skating ribbon, new clubhouse and improved grounds, was an almost \$19 million project, half paid by public funds.

Perri and the staff provided tours following the meeting.

The next alliance meeting will be March 12, 2020; 8:00 to 9:30 at Howard Park