

**Bloomington Urban Enterprise Association Board Meeting**  
**Special Session**  
**August 27, 2024**  
**11:00 AM.**  
**MINUTES**

**Roll Call:** The meeting called to order at 11:00 am

Virginia Githiri, Michael Hover, Mary Morgan, Phil Amerson, Heather Robinson, Chris Cockerham, Felisa Spinelli, Jane Kupersmith, Kate Rosenbarger, Virginia Githiri

Staff: De de la Rosa, Holly Warren, Matthew Burns

- **Minutes:** August 14th. Mary moves. Virginia seconds. Unanimously approved.
- **New Business**
  - Matthew Burns, O'Neill Service Corps Fellow, presents information on income inequality in Bloomington. Since 1970, income inequality in the United States has been steadily increasing. The smaller purchasing power of the middle class means fewer customers for small businesses. It exasperates structural inequalities, harms entrepreneurship, and makes the population less healthy, among other impacts.
  - Bloomington has the highest income inequality level in the state of Indiana post-pandemic. Coupled with the relatively high cost of rent and utilities, the impacts of income inequality are exasperating. These levels are among the highest compared to other college towns and cities nationwide.
  - The BUEA has 11,729 residents, with a median age of 27.1. The median household income is \$28,574, despite an unemployment rate of only 2.9%.
  - Some remedies considered included improving social capital, providing direct stimulus to residents, and implementing policies to make the BUEA more resilient in recessions.
- ~~**Unfinished Business**~~
- **General Discussion**
  - Felissa connected the difficult environment for Bloomington residents and small businesses to the construction on Second Street. She underscored that strategic plans must be met with action as people feel left behind by their community.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.