

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
City of Germantown
January 18, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Heidi Grant, Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, Ken Tudor, Lauren Dillon, Bryce Henson, Scott Weidle, Mike Kuhn

Also Present: Will Parsons, Community Relations Manager; Pat Higgins, Economic Development and City Grant Writer; Keith Brane, Planning Consultant; Judy Gilleland, City Manager; Mary Crockett, Downtown Manager; Chip Wirrig, Public Service Operations Manager; Kent Bryan and Nicole Diak, CT Consultants

The meeting was called to order by Tom W at 9:04 am

Election of Chairperson for 2024

Mark H nominated Tom W for chairperson, Heidi G seconded. The motion passed.

Election of Vice-Chairperson for 2024

Tom W nominated Mark H for Vice-Chairperson, Heidi G seconded. The motion passed.

Set Meeting Date and Times

It was decided that the meeting date and time would remain the same, the 3rd Thursday at 9 am.

Approval of Minutes

The December meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Welcome to New Members

The committee took the time to go around the room and have everyone introduce themselves. The new members then also made introductions and briefly shared about themselves.

Sanitary Sewer Study

Judy G introduced the study and its importance in facilitating growth and development. She further touched on the importance of looking at the whole community, not just downtown.

Kent B then led the committee through the study. CT Consultants went in with a goal of looking at the overall system and identify what could potentially restrict growth in Germantown. The previous study was 20 years old, but Kent informed the group that the changes which have been made in that time were not extensive. One item that was brought to the committee's attention was the fact that waste water would not be a hindrance to growth.

Kent then opened the discussion for questions. One item discussed was the nature of the different phases identified within the plan and how successive phases would supersede the previous. Cost

estimates for each phase were covered. The EDC also identified the upper NE corner of Germantown as a place with high potential for economic growth. Kent also briefly addressed how storm water can infiltrate waste water systems, and informed the group that the instances of this occurring in Germantown are not extraordinary, and in fact there has been recent work done in the city which has helped prevent this.

Judy G gave an overview of how financing would work on potential expansion. She then also touched on the local history of Dry Run and how the city would potentially move forward in the future.

Scott W brought up that it was important to consider whether the goal is to see residential or industrial development. Judy shared that this discussion would be continued at the next EDC meeting.

Traffic Engineer's Report

Judy G brought the EDC up to speed on the study that has been done on the potential 4-way stop in the downtown as well as the proposed notion of expanding the 25 mph speed limit. The traffic engineer found that the existing listed speeds in the downtown are correct based on existing parameters. So, new signage emphasizing the change in speed are instead being considered.

It was found that the portion of Route 4 near Triangle Station could be lowered due to being in a commercial area. Chief McGill will be present at the February Council Meeting to give his perspective.

The group circled back to the work that has been done on the potential 4 way stop, and it was shared that further discussion and research will be done.

Downtown Manager's Report

Mary C has been meeting with merchants to make connections and find ways to help assist them. She also shared that adjustments are in the process of being made to sign permit fees. It was shared that the existing fees are not revenue-makers; they cover the cost of inspections. The city is seeking to encourage nice signs to be installed. Mary also shared that a city-run, Facebook page will be created to highlight events happening in the downtown.

Misc. Business

The idea of having aesthetically pleasing window screens placed over unseemly windows in the downtown was discussed. EDC members were identified to speak to the owners of identified properties. Mark H recommended that the Mural Committee be involved in this project.

Kelli Novak will be sending out an article on Carmel, Indiana that was previously mentioned.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am