

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
City of Germantown  
March 16, 2023  
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Grant, Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, 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; Aaron Sorrell, Community Planning Insights LLC; Frank Dupps, Dupps Company; Chenoa Erisman, Germantown Senior Center Director

CONSULTANTS (Downtown Redevelopment Plan): Jason Duff, Small Nation; Nick Davis, Small Nation; Kathleen Norris, Urban Fast Forward; John Yung, Urban Fast Forward; Kathryn Youra Polk, Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission; Jeff Raser, Cincinnati Urban Design and Architecture

**The meeting was called to order by Tom W at 9:05 am**

**Approval of the minutes**

Tom W motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting, this motion was unanimously approved.

**Review of major goals for the Downtown Redevelopment Plan**

Jeff R began by reading the stated goals from the RFP. Kathleen N summed them up by stating that the overarching goal is to make Germantown a regional destination and a place where people will want to stay. Kathleen N asked if we had a historic preservation zoning ordinance, Mark H informed her that there was one but it was voted out 20 years ago.

**Challenges and opportunities in Germantown**

The committee then discussed the perceived feelings and outlooks of the residents of Germantown in regard to the current economic situation in town. It was noted that many young people want "more to do". It was also mentioned that there is some perceived apathy amongst some business owners.

The committee then shared with the consultants about the local events that currently take place in Germantown throughout the year. Jason D then asked the group to share what "cool things" Germantown has, i.e. what are the things they would share with people not from Germantown. The committee then spent some time sharing ideas.

**Identify key stakeholders**

Kathleen requested that the committee compile and send a list of key stakeholders that the consultants should communicate with. A few names were discussed by the committee.

## **Review of Schedule**

The consultants will be attending a future Council Meeting, to be determined at a later date.

Jeff R then did a brief review of the project schedule as laid out in the project proposal. The consulting team will plan to give updates during Economic Development meetings.

The consultants will plan to have stakeholder interviews completed by the April Economic Development meeting.

## **Other business**

The consultants discussed the relationship between the public and private sectors in regard to recruiting new businesses.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am**