

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
July 19, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mark Heistand, Lynn Koogle and Tom Winning

ABSENT: Mike Kuhn, Jeff Fannin

ALSO PRESENT: Judy Gilleland, City Manager, Pat Higgins, City Grant Writer

MINUTES:

The May minutes were approved.

BUSINESS:

Tom Winning opened the discussion by asking for updates.

2018 Downtown Quarterly Business Meetings - Pat Higgins began the discussion by reviewing the recent June 21, 2018 meeting at the Senior Center at 5:30pm. The attendance was lower but no one reason surfaced for the number in attendance. Reasons discussed were, it was summer, people already heard a Five Rivers Metroparks presentation, and/or just too busy to attend. Mark and Tom mentioned attendees were pleased with the information presented. For the October meeting, the committee decided a morning meeting should be organized. Possible topics discussed included: façade improvement ideas, discussion regarding the drafted brochure on zoning and building permits, feedback on the August event and information regarding the tax levy.

Five Rivers Metroparks and Germantown Joint Event – Discussion followed regarding the planned event and the need for more businesses to return participation forms. Pat indicated she was going to the stores west of Astoria to discuss their participation in the program. Additionally, next week, a sub-committee meeting will be held to receive assistance in the distribution of the flyer to schools, churches and stores. Angie Sheldon from Five Rivers will also be contacted to see if she could attend the sub-committee meeting so press releases could be coordinated with the Metroparks' marketing staff.

Ohio Open Doors Program – Mark wanted the committee to know about this state wide event to determine if Germantown would want to be host for the week long program in September. The Ohio Open Doors program was created in 2016 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1966, National Historic Preservation Act made preserving historic, architectural and archaeological resources whenever possible a policy of the federal government. Hosts of the Open Doors Program sponsor activities at historic properties and/or historic downtowns to highlight the historical significance of the buildings and their architecture. After discussion, the committee decided to wait until next year because of the need for more time to plan, seek volunteers and participants.

A brief discussion followed regarding the need to have a downtown coordinator to further assist with events, business owner questions, streetscape issues and more. Judy indicated funding is limited in the city budget. Judy continued with an overview of the many components of a city and the need for them to work well, for example: schools, city government, street appearance, downtown district's vitality and

appearance. Each community needs a hook to draw people to live and visit. Right now, the hooks are the metroparks and the downtown area.

Downtown Façade Improvement Program – Application was submitted to Montgomery County for consideration. We have not heard yet, therefore, we have not developed guidelines or processes. If funded, the program will be designed to be a matching grant, the property owner will have to financially participate. Grant application outlined a \$5,000 maximum on grant funds per project.

Downtown Business Brochure – Pat explained the draft was reviewed by Kelli and Scott Young from NIC. Mark indicated he had some suggestions and would contact Pat directly. Comments heard included: clearly identifying what permits the city is solely responsible for and what other agencies handle; including the permit fees using a range because fees vary depending on the project, identify the team members who are involved in the process and continue to point out, the rules are not only Germantown's rules. Committee further discussed involving the businesses in the community in the review process to gather input and suggestions on the process. The October Downtown Meeting could have the brochure as a topic for discussion.

Business First Membership – Judy informed the committee that the city renewed its membership for the next year. The cost is \$1,500 a year for the membership. The Business Walk was so well done and the information gathered helpful, so a good reason to continue.

Judy asked if in the upcoming city budget for 2019, should include a Downtown Coordinator in the budget? The committee members supported this idea.

Other Business – Mark asked about the Shuey Mill parking issue and Judy reported staff is working on the issue. No parking signs will be installed and the Shuey Mill attorney is discussing possible parking solutions with the city attorney and staff.

The next meeting will be on August 16, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 10:40am.

Respectfully Submitted.

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Patricia M. Higgins  
Economic Development Consultant