

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
January 17, 2019
Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mark Heistand, Jeff Fannin and Tom Winning

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

ABSENT: Lynn Koogler, Mike Kuhn

MINUTES:

The September meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Jeff Fannin and Second by Mark Heistand. The December meeting notes (minutes were not prepared due to a lack of a quorum) were reviewed and accepted by the committee.

Tom Winning began the meeting with the election of chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2019. After a brief discussion, the members elected Tom Winning, Chairperson and Mike Kuhn, Vice Chairperson.

Tom continued the meeting with a review of the following business:

Façade Improvement Program

Pat began the discussion by reporting that the final draft of the guidelines have been prepared and she was having a meeting with Tawana Jones, Montgomery County CDBG Manager this afternoon to review the guidelines and final process that will be followed. Pat reviewed the program will be eligible to all commercial property owners and tenants, the program will cover 50% up to \$2500 of eligible improvements and owners/tenants will be reimbursed after all work is completed and the contractor paid. A letter has been sent to the property owners and tenants to announce a January 24, 2019 meeting at 5:15pm in the council chamber to explain the guidelines.

A brief discussion followed regarding the review of façade improvement program application by the Economic Development Committee and a decision was made that the ED committee members would review the applications and a sub-committee would not be formed. Judy indicated we might want to call the façade improvement program a "pilot program" because it is a first time program.

Types of improvements were also discussed and the need to have the improvements address a code violation or potential code violation. Judy explained the façade improvement program needs to meet one of the three National Objectives of the CDBG program and the façade program would fall under the slum and blight objective. Jeff asked about awnings and if they would be eligible due to the changes in the Building Code that requires a variety of upgrades to address possible fires and/or snow loads. Based on the new code requirements, more research was needed to determine their eligibility for funding.

To ensure everyone submits the application timely, the committee suggested deadlines be established for the submittal of applications, quotes for the work and completion of the work.


Five Rivers Metroparks and City of Germantown Possible Joint Events – Pat reported she had a meeting with Eric Sauer and Angie Sheldon, staff from Five Rivers Metroparks to discuss short term projects and long term efforts to promote the two metroparks and the City of Germantown. Pat briefly reviewed a memo to Judy regarding the meeting. Events included 4 hike/bike guided tours with a visit downtown to a Saturday Night Out event or a restaurant. The committee like the idea but needed to make sure they did not interfere with an existing event in the city, such as the Twisted Pretzel Bike Tour. Committee discussed finding members for a sub-committee to organize the events with Five Rivers. Tom suggested a Business Meeting be held in March/April to seek support from the business owners.

Long term projects included a joint meeting with Five Rivers Metroparks, City of Germantown, German Township and Miami Valley Regional Planning to discuss the development of a bike route, signage and possible funding sources to develop the bike route. Judy mentioned Steve Mersch as a possible member.

Economic Development Committee Goals for 2019 – Next month Pat will bring a list of projects for discussion. However, the committee indicated business retention and recruiting should be the major goal in 2019. Jeff indicated we are doing retention and recruiting by holding joint events that bring people into the area. A brief discussion continued on the need for an Economic Development Manager and a downtown event coordinator.

With no other business the meeting concluded at 10:35am.

Submitted by:



Patricia M. Higgins
ED Consultant