

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

September 19, 2019

Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Mark Heistand, Jeff Fannin, and Mike Kuhn

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

ABSENT: Tom Winning and Lynn Koogle (deceased)

GUEST: Michelle Wright, owner of Elwood's Cafe

MINUTES:

Mike Kuhn called the meeting to order as Acting Chair. The meeting began with a discussion regarding how much Lynn Koogle would be missed and how much the committee members appreciated his participation and dedication to Germantown. His stories, life experiences and skills were highlighted during the discussion.

The August meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Jeff Fannin and Mark Heistand.

Mike Kuhn continued the meeting by asking Pat to review the business items.

Downtown Business Group - Pat introduced Michelle Wright, owner of Elwood's Café to discuss the results of a recently held downtown business owner meeting organized by Michelle. Michelle indicated businesses were contacted through social media and by going door to door. The purpose was for her to network and meet with other business owners.

Prior to the meeting Michelle, sent out a survey regarding what business owners liked or disliked regarding Germantown. Business owners disliked the lack of foot traffic downtown, the cancellation of Saturday Night Out and other events; and the permit process to open a business.

The discussion followed with exchanging information on the amount of grant funds received, the ODOT Market Street Traffic Study, Saturday Night Out, the importance of Five Rivers Metroparks, Germantown Lions Club, possible recycling grants, the Germantown Chamber of Commerce and Heritage, Ohio Programs.

Judy Gilleland and the committee members worked to respond to the questions and assured Michelle we would like to work with her to provide information, program ideas and more. Judy and Pat will meet with Michelle to further discuss in greater detail programs, projects and ideas mentioned.

Façade Improvement Program – Pat provided an update, Historical Society doors have been replaced, awning at Fox Gallery has been replaced, tuck pointing is being done at 24 West Center, painting is also underway at 2 West Center. Pat indicated that the owners of 20 North Main and 18 North Main have submitted applications and are moving forward to obtain façade improvement funding for improvements.

2020 Census -- Staff has been briefed by a Census staff member about the upcoming census. The need to have everyone counted is very important for Germantown. Therefore, staff was wondering if the Economic Development Committee would like to serve as the Complete County Committee. The committee would work with staff to identify ways to promote the census in the schools, churches, senior center and more. The members said they would be willing to serve this role for the city.

With no further business the meeting concluded at 10:40am.

Submitted by:

Patricia M. Higgins, ED Consultant