

**Village of Germantown Hills  
216 Holland Road, Village Hall  
Germantown Hills, IL 61548  
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[www.germantownhillsillinois.org](http://www.germantownhillsillinois.org)**

**Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Marty Clinch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

<b>EDC Committee</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Jeff DeGroot-Village President	Present	Y	Y	
Marty Clinch-Chairman	Present	Y	Y	
John Ford	Absent	-	-	
Paul Herzog	Present	Y	Y	
John Taylor	Present	Y	Y	
Bob Sutton	Present	Y	Y	
Dr. Tim Kaufman	Absent	-	-	
Mike Gaetz	Absent	-	-	
Tammy Heiden	Present	Y	Y	
Ann Sasso-Director	Present	Y	Y	

Also in attendance:

Jill Goforth, Tri-County Planning Commission  
Katy Shackelford, Tri-County Planning Commission  
Veronica Axelson, Chamber of Commerce President  
Jim O’Laughlin, Village Trustee  
Brian Wysocki, Village Trustee  
Amy DeFreitas, MTHS School Board Member  
Eric McCallister-GH School Board Member  
Laura Nightengale-PJ Star

**2. Minutes Approval-December 5, 2013**

**A motion** was made by Jeff DeGroot to approve the December 5, 2013 EDC minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Sutton. **Motion passed #1.**

**3. Short-term Win Update - Quarterly Newsletter**

Jill Goforth asked about the progress on the community newsletter. Ann Sasso reported she is still waiting on letters from several individuals but is hoping to have them next week. Ann explained there will be 2300 flyers mailed out and has found a company that can put together

the flyers for a reasonable cost. We will order 2500 so that some flyers can be available at local businesses. The newsletter should be ready to be sent out in February.

#### **4. Survey Results**

Jill Goforth reported the results and demographics from the community survey. Jill noted 311 surveys were completed representing 9% of the total village population and 26.5% of the total village households. The availability of sidewalks and the library were the top two items residents were dissatisfied about. The survey showed more people want to get involved, which is encouraging to hear. Paul Herzog recommended pulling out some key points from the survey to communicate to the public. The new website will have the capability for residents to receive notices and will be more user friendly.

#### **5. Review/Revise Comprehensive Plan Goals**

The Planning Commission had reviewed and updated the goals several years ago. The comprehensive plan goals presented included those recommended changes. Jill Goforth and Katy Shackelford reviewed the comprehensive goals by section, which the committee discussed, revised and updated.

Eric McCallister arrived at 5:44 p.m.

The proposed changes and additions discussed will be made to the comprehensive plan.

One of the biggest concerns from the survey is the negative influence from having the empty Jubilee building. Katy noted the village has a strong sense of character and identity but having a vacant building doesn't identify with that concept. Katy stated the village is lacking a town center concept to help identify Germantown Hills. Germantown Hills is regionally oriented not locally oriented so it is a pass through community. Katy indicated some possible solutions or strategies to reorient the Village such as developing civic spaces for a gathering space, open air canopies for outdoor markets, and increased space for biking and walking activities.

In addition Katy mentioned the village may want to think about creative solutions including incentives to recruit businesses.

Amy DeFreitas mentioned the concept of eliminating the Jubilee name to allow people to start thinking about something new. The committee discussed the need to eliminate the negativity surrounding the Jubilee building and the possibility of changing the road name away from Jubilee Lane to Germantown Crossing. The advantages and disadvantages of doing this were discussed.

The committee discussed a new village sign to identify Germantown Hills along Rt. 116 with a style appropriate for the Village. This is something the park committee is going to be working on this next year.

Katy noted they will update the goals that were discussed and bring them back for discussion at the next meeting. The committee should look at the remainder of the comprehensive goals with their suggestions by the next meeting.

The committee agreed to add a calendar of events to the community newsletter. Once the new website is complete we will be getting the word out in any way we can. The committee discussed putting the community newsletter out quarterly.

## **6. Public Comments/Committee Updates**

Ann Sasso reported a new cleaners is opening up in a couple of weeks and the PNC Bank building has sold to a company that is currently marketing it. Paul Herzog reported the Photo Artistry is closing so there will be one vacancy in his building.

Jill noted they will be completing the stakeholder interviews in the next two weeks.

Marty Clinch reported that we continue to reach out to look into a grocery store while being sensitive to our contacts. We have some members attending workshops and we continue to seek out from other groups information to help with the village's economic development success. Marty noted he is encouraged by this group and feels the diverse group of organizations and great ideas is important in keeping our efforts going.

## **7. Next Meeting- February 13, 2014 5:00 pm**

The next meeting will be held at the fire house.

**A motion** was made by Paul Herzog to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Jeff DeGroot. **Motion passed #2.**

Ann Sasso  
Village Clerk