

Village of Germantown Hills
Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Marty Clinch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

| EDC Committee | Roll Call | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jeff DeGroot-Village President | Absent | - | - | - | | |
| Marty Clinch-Chairman | Present | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Amy Pace | Present | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Paul Herzog | Absent | - | - | - | | |
| Bob Sutton | Present | P | Y | Y | | |
| Eric McAllister | Absent | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Amy DeFreitas | Absent | - | - | - | | |
| Melissa Heil | Present | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Veronica Axelson-Electronic | Absent | P | Y | Y | | |
| Kendall Stevens | Present | Y | Y | Y | | |
| Ann Sasso-Director | Present | Y | Y | Y | | |

Also in attendance:

Dan Mair, Superintendent of Germantown Hills School District

Jim O'Laughlin, Village Trustee

The committee had no objection for Veronica Axelson to attend by electronic means due to being ill.

2. Approval of the April 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes-A motion was made by Melissa Heil to approve the April 14, 2016 EDC minutes. The motion was seconded by Amy Pace. **Motion passed #1.**

3. Discussion and recommendation to the Village board on approval of a Business Community Improvement Grant Request

Greg Harman was in attendance to request a Business Community Improvement Grant for a new ground sign. He noted many community groups have asked him to put announcements on his sign and there have been times where he has had multiple requests for messages or the placement of banners on his property. A LED sign will give him the ability to meet the requests and help eliminate the banners on his property.

Greg noted upgrading the sign will give his sign better longevity and he won't have to fight the change panel letters freezing in the winter. Greg is using a local sign firm and the individual lives within our community and has been a local volunteer firefighter. They are looking at using the existing poles and frame for the new sign.

Eric McCallister arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Greg explained with him being an independent contractor his company doesn't offer any assistance with his building so the grant will give him the ability to do this project. His proposed sign meets the code and is far enough away from the traffic light and is not at the same height as the stop light to where there would be any confusion.

Melissa Heil stated she will be voting yes but her only reservation is that this grant program in her mind was to be more for façade improvements and not LED signs. Bob Sutton noted his only issue is to make sure the LED signs are being monitored to meet the Village requirements of intensity and length of display time so that there are no flashing lights especially in locations close to traffic signals and intersections.

A motion was made by Bob Sutton to recommend to the Village Board the approval of the Business Community Improvement Grant request from Greg Harman for a \$5,000 grant to be used on his sign located at 401 Woodland Knolls Road. The motion was seconded by Kendall Stevens. **Motion passed #2.**

The approval of this BCIP grant will be for the current fiscal year as the previous grant for Germantown Crossing was for last fiscal year.

4. EDC Chairman/Director Reports

Ann Sasso reported she was checking with IDOT and the Tri-County Planning Commission on the eligibility of the bike/walkway from Germantown Hills to Metamora for an ITEP Grant. Due to the path size and location this will probably not be feasible without additional right of way.

The GHAA easement is being recorded for the Welcome sign to be put in the southeast corner of their property. The Village will start the work soon as the signs are being ordered.

The street pole banners are up. Ann has had some meetings with some individuals on some commercial development in the Village. She also met with Brittany Brown with GPEDC to see what areas she might be able to help.

The variances for the Germantown Crossing pylon sign were approved for a new sign. The trees that are hiding the sign were discussed.

Ann noted she had attended the GP Annual Meet up. It was a great event and would encourage everyone to try attending next year.

A reminder the St. Jude Bags event is this Saturday at Germantown Crossing.

Marty Clinch stated the GPEDC event was a great event and they discussed all the things they are doing for regional development.

5. School expansion & building updates-Dan Mair reported on the school building and expansion update. He noted the engineer and architect are still working on the sewer solution to meet the Village requirements. Dan noted he will be attending the next Village board meeting on May 26th to give an update. There seems to have been some miscommunications

between the School and the Village but at the meeting we will get clarification on what needs to be communicated as the project moves along. The last school day is May 20th.

- 6. Illinois Prairie District Public Library update-**Grant from the library had reported to Ann the walls are going up and they are still looking at a December completion date.
- 7. Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce update-**Veronica Axelson reported they have passed out over 100 welcome bags to new residents within the community. The Chamber meeting for this month is on May 17th at Metamora Fields. She explained they will be doing a joint meeting with MABA and they will have a speaker from Bradley. Veronica reported the ticket sales were down on the pork chop event compared to last year but the weather most likely contributed to that. She stated she is starting to work on the Community Prayer Breakfast.
- 8. Road infrastructure update-**The contractor will be working on the Anker Lane extension weather permitting. The work should be completed in July.
- 9. Discussion on future community goals and objectives**

All committee members were to bring back some ideas for our next step on our goals and objectives. Below is the list that was put together and discussed.

Goals and Objectives

- Develop commercial design guidelines
- Acquire land to develop parks
- MTCO Park- first need ideas to build and create a strategy for a business plan
- Build community identify (Art or photo contest for ideas)
- Figure out a strategy to annex parcels (determine a way to make property owners understand the benefits) find creative ways to make this work
- Grocery store/Farmer's Market
- Encourage growth and make sure the infrastructure is built in those places
- Support the Eastern Bypass- make sure once the corridor is selected that proper infrastructure is in place
- Bike Trails
- Develop Triangle Park which could be a central place for Farmer's Markets, Art Shows and events
- Sidewalk to add in the connectivity of the parks to the library and shopping areas
- Work on filling the open commercial spaces in the Village
- Look at funding opportunities from people within our community for a possible endowment
- Communication-a text message program like Metamora has

10. Business round table updates/public comments

11. Next Meeting- June 9, 2016 5:00 p.m.-The next EDC meeting will be held at the Village hall at 5:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment-A motion was made by Melissa Heil to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Amy Pace. **Motion passed #3.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk