

## **Village of Germantown Hills**

### **Special Village Board and Economic Development Council Meeting**

**February 7, 2017 4:00 p.m.**

The Village Board and Economic Development Council attended the Illinois Prairie District Public Library Board meeting at the Metamora Branch.

#### **Agenda**

Discussion on the Marcella Schneider Branch Library in Germantown Hills and recommendations to the Library District's Board of Trustees.

Those in attendance:

Village Board Trustees

Julia Miller  
Jim O'Laughlin  
Marty Clinch  
Todd Rice

Economic Development Council

Marty Clinch  
Paul Herzog  
Eric McAllister  
Amy DeFreitas  
Veronica Axelson  
Kendall Stevens  
Ann Sasso

#### **ILLINOIS PRAIRIE DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday February 7, 2017 at 4:00 P.M.**

Illinois Prairie District Public Library  
Metamora Branch Library  
208 E. Partridge Street  
Metamora, Illinois 61548

1. Call to order.
2. Minutes of the last regular meeting.
3. Public comments.
4. Marcella Schneider Branch Library at Germantown Hills  
Hours

#### Sale of old building at Germantown Hills

5. Resolution 2016 -1, travel rules.
6. 214 E. Partridge –intergovernmental agreement.
7. Aquarium for children’s corner.
8. Policy Review meeting room policy.
9. Treasurer’s report –approval of bills and requisitions.
10. Comments to guide future agendas.
11. Adjournment.

The Library Board meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. Village Board Trustees, EDC members and others spoke during public comments.

Mike Hinrichsen started out saying the Village and the Library District have a common objective and that is to make the library successful. We have the potential to do great things. The library board opened the new library at 26 hours per week but the Village and EDC have recommended it be open 60 hours per week to serve the community. Mike gave some history of what has been going on as he has collected and reviewed the library's financials, income statements, and budgets. Mike noted he wanted to talk to Kim Sheets, the bookkeeper for the Library District but she was not available and Grant Fredericksen has stated he won't talk to Mike. Mike's review of the financials indicates the money is there when the premise of the library has been there would need to be cuts in order to add additional hours. Mike noted we need clarity on some of the funds but financially it appears the library has the capability to fund the additional hours without the cuts.

The Village has asked the Library District for the library to be open 60 hours a week. The next step would be to have meaningful programs to make it a valuable community asset.

Marty Clinch stated as the EDC Chairman and Village Trustee, we are here to help. There is great potential for programs for all ages. People have expressed the need for programs. We are happy to have the new library but we want to work together to make it successful.

Jim O'Laughlin congratulated the Library Board on the new building. His concern is that it is never open and there are many people that can't utilize it because of the hours.

Amy DeFreitas thanked the Board for the beautiful building which will be a huge benefit to our community.

Kate Kaufman, a librarian herself noted she is excited about the facility and sees so much potential. She strongly urged the Board to consider the proposed hours which can make a meaningful impact to the community. She stated on a personal side the open house was wonderful but was disappointed on the hours of operation. For her it will be hard for her to get there with the current hours. She noted the library is a beautiful facility and will be a great economic driver for our community.

Ann Sasso congratulated the Board on the beautiful building and noted the need to work together to make this successful. We can't wait to change the hours as the longer it goes the more people will be frustrated and go elsewhere. We need the increase in hours now before we lose people to other libraries in the area. The Germantown Hills Branch needs more books and programs in order for our residents to utilize the new library. The Germantown Hills branch should be the District's flagship so that other residents in the District know they can still utilize a library with expanded hours. Everyone has worked hard for the library to be built now it needs to be open, have books and programs. The Village of Germantown Hills wants to help make this successful.

Paul Herzog indicated the Library Board should be proud of what has been created and the District's balance sheet is impressive. Germantown Hills is supportive of this improvement as a piece of our economic development for our community. He noted we have this jewel and we are begging you to make this accessible to people that are paying the taxes. All we ask is to help us be able to use it and make it successful. Paul noted their original argument of not having the funds is clearly not the case as affordability is not an issue.

Ken Maurer, Library Board member recommended increasing the hours to 60 hours a week for the Germantown Hills Branch with a re-evaluation at the end of the year. The motion passed unanimously.

Todd Rice asked if someone other than Grant could be our contact person since he doesn't want to communicate with the Village. The Library Board agreed to have board member Annie Hicks be the Village's contact person.

The Library Board discussed the plan for the old library building. It was noted they could do an intergovernmental agreement with the School as they are interested in the building or they could accept bids for the building. Todd Rice indicated he felt putting the building out for bids would be impacting the residents a second time as they have already paid taxes for the library. Ann Sasso noted she knows the School is very interested in the building and it likely would be a huge help towards traffic and safety issues at the School come fall when additional students move over to the building. The Library Board tabled the decision for now.

The Village will get program ideas to Annie Hicks for consideration.

The majority of the Village Board and EDC members left at 5:13 p.m.

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk