

Village of Germantown Hills

Special Village Board and Economic Development Council Meeting

March 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, the former library building located at 101 Warrior Way and recommendations to the Library District's Board of Trustees.

Those in attendance:

Village Board Trustees

Julia Miller
Jim O'Laughlin
Marty Clinch
Amy Pace
Brian Wysocki

Economic Development Council

Marty Clinch
Veronica Axelson
Bob Sutton
Ann Sasso

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

**at 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.
Sale of 101 Warrior Way in Germantown Hills.
5. 214 E. Partridge Street.
6. Aquarium for children's corner
7. Director position.
8. Policy Review-meeting policy and application.
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 4:00 p.m. Village Board Trustees, EDC members and others spoke during public comments.

Mike Hinrichsen stated the Village is committed to having a vibrant library for our community to use. He questioned how many library boards out there have a community that is willing to work to promote the library and the willingness to communicate that message to the community. The Village has provided recommendations on the 60 hours per week but needs to know what the library hours are going to be and when it will go into effect. Mike noted the Village also would like to know when more books are coming and get a better understanding of what programs will be available. Mike noted he, Marty Clinch and Ann Sasso had met with the U of I Extension to hear what programs they provide. This is a resource available to the County where many programs are free or there's a nominal fee. Mike reviewed a list of the some of the programs available.

Kim Scurlock, Assistant Librarian, talked about Metamora always having the most books and programs and being the main branch. She talked about the number of staff and their job responsibilities. She stated other branches are suffering because of Germantown Hills. She feels there is currently a low morale and poor environment amongst the employees.

Dan Mair, Superintendent of Germantown Hills School District, stated that the School has interest in the old library property located at 101 Warrior Way. He stated he would like to meet with someone to discuss the property. He noted on other occasions he has expressed interest in the School having the property to help create a safer crossing waiting area for the students. They would like to be able to utilize it for possible parking and/or an extra student pickup area. He noted there may be a possibility of donating the building to be moved if that is an option. He stated as two taxing bodies he would be interested in discussing the options and is requesting a meeting in order to do that.

Donna Hahn from Washburn explained she feels the smaller libraries have been neglected the past year. Their library needs books and computers and she has a concern with the hours as they don't fit the needs of their community. She noted they are happy for Germantown Hills with their new facility.

Donna Adami from Washburn also feels the smaller libraries have been neglected and there have been no new books for the residents. She noted they deserve more than what has been offered.

Marty Clinch, EDC Chairman and Village Trustee, for Germantown Hills stated Germantown Hills doesn't want to take away from the other communities but wants to make the Library District as a whole successful. There are many U of I Extension programs that are available to all of the branches. Marty noted there used to be a Library District representative at our EDC meetings but that has not happened in the last year or more, and we welcome someone to be involved in our EDC meetings each month.

Ann Sasso, Village Administrator and EDC Director, for Germantown Hills stated the Village appreciates the board approving the increased hours a month ago and we want to work with the library. We are willing to help get the word out to the community once the new hours are set. We plan on putting it on our Facebook page, Website, emails, and possibly a flyer to send out to the community. We want this to be successful for the community and Library District.

Veronica Axelson, EDC Board member and Germantown Hills Chamber President, indicated she has received complaints about the lack of books and programs at the new library. She read a complaint she had received via email. Veronica questioned why money isn't being put back into the branches when there are clearly funds available. She stated she was excited at the open house but also embarrassed due to the lack of books and programs. She questioned why the library district wouldn't hire more people as there are funds available and we are all on the same team wanting to make the Library District successful.

Kitty Cullett, Village resident, stated she is thrilled with the new facility but was discouraged to see limited hours for her son who is in medical school to be able to utilize the new facility. She was disappointed and upset when a lifelong Village resident was not given a proper chance at employment at the new facility.

Erin Roberts, Assistant District Librarian, stated she has been doing the cataloging of the new books and interviewing of new applicants. She noted people need to be patient as it takes time.

Ken Maurer, Library District Board Member and Metamora Village President, noted the library board is proud of the Germantown Hills Library and they are excited about the increased hours. He noted all of the sites need updating, more hours and more books and there's a lot of work to do to be able to offer programs at all of the branches. The positives to keep in mind are the new building and new hours but overall we have the dollars to handle the increased hours and we have the support of the community. Ken thanked everyone for the comments.

Amanda Voorhees, architect, of the new library stated they are getting ready to do the closing of the building project with a final punch list of items from the contractor to complete. The building is under a one year warranty and they are working on the maintenance manuals.

The library board discussed advertising the sale of the old library, 101 Warrior Way, out for bids. Ann Sasso reminded the library board the property is currently zoned R-1 so no commercial uses would be allowed without rezoning of the property and going through the proper process. There are also setbacks that would be required if the building was removed and she is not sure if it is a buildable lot. Ann asked if before they put the property out for bids if they would consider meeting with the School as requested, as the School had the property before the library years ago. Ken Maurer mentioned talking to the School before taking bids on the property. Stan Rush felt they should take out the bids to start the process but will talk to their attorney to see if there are additional requirements.

The library board discussed their other agenda items. Grant Fredericksen is retiring June 30th and they will be advertising for a new Director. They discussed whether or not the salary should be included in the advertisement. They agreed to include a range centering on Grant's salary.

Ann Sasso asked about the qualifications for their part time positions and the timing for starting new personnel. Grant stated the qualifications are a High School diploma and some computer knowledge. Ann noted there is someone that is interested in the job that has a Bachelor's degree and computer knowledge that would be more than qualified. Grant stated they are still interviewing applicants.

Kitty Cullett asked if there is a training process. Grant noted there is and it doesn't take long to train the employees. Kitty indicated some people need to be accommodated if they have physical limitations and it is upsetting when this doesn't happen. She noted we want to encourage village residents that want to work within our community.

Grant stated the tentative start date for the new hours in Germantown Hills is April 3rd.

The other library board agenda items were completed or deferred.

The majority of the Village Board and EDC members left at 5:10 p.m.

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk