

Village of Germantown Hills Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2017 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	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Marty Clinch-Chairman	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Amy Pace	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Paul Herzog	Absent	-	-	-		
Bob Sutton	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Eric McAllister	Absent	-	-	-		
Amy DeFreitas	Absent	-	-	-		
Melissa Heil	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Veronica Axelson	Present	Y	Y	Y		
Kendall Stevens	Absent	-	-	-		
Ann Sasso-Director	Present	Y	Y	Y		

Also in attendance:

Rich Brecklin, Superintendent of Public Works Jim O'Laughlin, Village Trustee
 Mike Hinrichsen, WC Board Member Julia Miller, Village Trustee
 Stan Rush, Library Board President

- 2. Approval of the January 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes-**A motion was made by Amy Pace to approve the January 12, 2017 EDC minutes. The motion was seconded by Melissa Heil. **Motion passed #1.**

Approval of the February 7, 2017 Special Village Board & EDC Meeting Minutes-A motion was made by Amy Pace to approve the February 7, 2017 EDC minutes. The motion was seconded by Melissa Heil. **Motion passed #2.**

Approval of the March 7, 2017 Special Village Board & EDC Meeting Minutes-Approval of the March 7, 2017 meeting minutes were deferred to the next meeting.

- 3. Discussion and update on the Germantown Hills Library**

Marty Clinch welcomed Stan Rush, Library Board President to the EDC meeting. The Village Board and EDC are excited about the new library and want to be active participants in helping the Library Board make the library successful. Stan Rush had no comments at this time.

Bob Sutton summarized what happened at the library board meeting that some EDC members attended. He noted he was surprised at the reaction of the library staff as they came across as Germantown Hills was somehow pressuring them and they were very defensive. It appears the library board isn't giving much attention to the smaller libraries based on the comments and they are feeling neglected.

Bob noted on the old library property he is surprised the School and Library wouldn't have a meeting before the library goes out for bids since the School has been showing interest and they have a need. Stan stated they have other interested people so they are going out for bids. Ann Sasso reminded Stan the lot is not zoned commercial so there would be limitations. Stan stated it is not their concern and that it would be up to the bidder.

Bob Sutton stated many of the frustrations have been that the library was not prepared with having books and enough hours when it opened. Stan explained they don't have the capability of staff and space. Veronica Axelson asked why they wouldn't have enough staff to be prepared and open without books.

Jeff DeGroot noted it is encouraging the library has agreed to the increased hours and is glad they are working on getting staff and books.

Marty Clinch asked how we can help to make things happen. The library is an important part of the community. Marty asked where the job for the Director position would be posted. Stan noted it would be posted in the library journals. The committee discussed possible local posting options too.

Melissa Heil had to leave at 5:21 p.m.

Tim Beechler, owner of Germantown PC and a Chamber member noted the community has waited years for the library to be built and it was frustrating it would open without books. There have been many complaints and there's a concern that these things need to be addressed as people will go elsewhere if they aren't.

Stan Rush explained the process to catalog the books and the book distribution companies which takes time and money.

Veronica stated Germantown Hills has paid taxes for years and questioned why the library district wouldn't put money into the other branches. The Germantown Hills library shouldn't have been opened without supplies and she doesn't understand why money isn't being put into all of the other branches that are in need. Stan explained they have certain funds that can only be used for certain expenses.

Ann Sasso stated the need to get things going as soon as possible not only because people will get frustrated and go elsewhere but the library board only approved the increase in hours until the end of the year for re-evaluation. Bob Sutton felt books and programs need to be in place prior to summer when our community and kids will be able to utilize it more.

Mike Hinrichsen explained the U of I Extension organization gave the Village a programs list and it would be good to know the time frame in order to get certain programs lined up.

Mike noted the library budget shows \$350,000 so it would appear they have the funds to use for salaries. He stated he has identified areas where there are funds available. We are going to lose people if we don't get things going as the library is important to our community.

Rich Brecklin reported the new sign at the library identifying the Marcella Schneider library is in place.

4. Discussion on updating the Comprehensive Plan

Mike Hinrichsen indicated the comprehensive plan has been helpful in preparing him for his new role as Village President. The plan allows him to see Germantown Hill's progress. Mike created a document for the EDC to see and understand some key elements. There are some reoccurring themes. Mike discussed Germantown Hills' strengths and opportunities.

5. Discussion on the Germantown Crossing Shopping Center Vision and Plan

Mike noted with community character that the #1 priority needs to be Germantown Crossing as it is further away from the goals than it was 3 years ago.

Tim Beechler noted the thought of doing a community event such as a 4th of July event that could integrate all the groups in the Village (Chamber, Village, Schools, Businesses, churches, etc...) This would bring the community together and draw other people into the Village.

Melissa Heil arrived at 5:44.

Marty Clinch stated the need to have another round table discussion with the property owners at Germantown Crossing to see if we can help. Ann Sasso indicated there may be some new interest in one of the vacancies which will help the shopping center.

Mike Hinrichsen questioned what we want Germantown Hills to look like. What can we create so it has character and fits into what we want to be? Could you create a park area by Germantown Crossing to draw people for events? These are things to think about but businesses have to be sustainable. Mike noted the importance to stay on top of making the library successful as we will thrive as a community stronger together than apart.

Melissa Heil reminded everyone the Village does have the enterprise zone incentive too.

6. EDC Chairman/Director Reports-Deferred due to time.

7. Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce update

Veronica reported Junior Achievement will be at the Chamber lunch on March 16th. The Chamber pork chop and vendor event will be on May 6, 2017. Tim Beechler noted he is checking on having an e-recycling event for lap tops and computers. Veronica stated they are looking at putting together a committee to work on the Halloween on the Hill event to coordinate with the Fire Department. She also reported the Chamber is checking into doing a Chamber sponsored commercial with a new community quote.

8. Business round table updates/public comments-Deferred due to time.

9. Next meeting-April 13, 2017 5:00 p.m.-The next meeting will be at the Village hall on April 13th at 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment-A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Marty Clinch. Motion passed #3.

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk