

**Village of Germantown Hills
 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
 November 15, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes Approval**-Jim Willerton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and roll call was taken.

Commissioner	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jim Willerton - Chair	Present	Y	Y				
John Taylor	Absent	-	-				
Steve Rudolph	Present	Y	Y				
Scott Kramer	Present	Y	Y				
Kyle Perry	Present	Y	Y				
Marc Wright	Absent	-	-				
Vacant							

Also in attendance:
 Tamra Watts, Liquor Shoppe Owner

2. **Minutes Approval**

- a. **May 17, 2021 Minutes**-A motion was made by Scott Kramer to approve the May 17, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Willerton.
Motion passed #1.

3. **Discussion and recommendation to the Village Board regarding feather flags**

Currently the village code allows for six feather flags a year for 20 days each time. This is six feather flag permits for any building that has two or more businesses in the building.

Tamra Watts noted this would be shared with all 4 businesses within in the building. Although most of the other businesses would probably not be utilizing the feather flag permit. Tamra stated she expanded her business into the other space and remodeled it in April. The video gaming machines were turned on in May. The construction was completed 5 weeks ago and she is looking at other forms of marketing and advertising for the video gaming. Tamra explained that she put the feather flags up at the end of September and since then her gaming numbers have gone up. Tamra put the feather flags in a 5-gallon bucket and concrete in front of the building and a feather flag along Woodland Knolls Road ten feet off of the property line. Tamra said the feather flags have made a huge difference but 120 days a year is not enough. She would like to be able to leave them up all year long.

Tamra Watts checked around the area and noted Metamora has no code, Washington for a fee of \$10 allows them up all year and Peoria Heights allows the feather flags in certain commercial districts.

Scott Kramer asked about the location of the feather flags on the property.

Tamra thinks the flags are a huge draw as a lot of people didn't know there were gaming machines in the building.

Ann Sasso talked to Metamora and they haven't adopted any requirements yet because they haven't had any complaints. Ann Sasso noted Cassandra had checked around to see what other communities do in regards to feather flags. Some communities don't allow

them at all, some allow them up to 30 days a couple of times a year and some are allowed for special events only. Ann Sasso noted the concern of allowing them up all the time as we don't want everyone putting them up and leaving them up all year around. This was looked at in detail years ago by the Planning Commission and Village Board.

Tamra questioned if they could be allowed only in the business district and no other areas since she is in a business district.

Ann Sasso stated she felt this would be a problem since it is a small community and it would be hard to have different rules when there aren't many businesses in the village.

Scott Kramer stated he has safety concerns with the sign along Woodland Knolls as it could be a distraction and questioned the effectiveness of having a sign along Woodland Knolls.

Ann Sasso noted the owner of the property only had a concern if there was a safety issue with allowing the flags. Currently, Tamra has enough feather flag permits to last through the holidays into January.

Tamra Watts passed out documentation showing the increase in sales. Tamra thinks the sign out front is more effective but went ahead and put one up on the back of the property.

Ann Sasso noted the EDC had discussed the issue and had concerns on the look of having feather flags up all of the time. Ann noted we had one complaint with a feather flag across the highway and having them close to residential areas would create even more concerns.

Kyle Perry stated he wasn't sure the numbers were a represented sample. It would be good to see some numbers with and without the flags as the remodel and increased inventory could also be contributing factors to the increase in sales.

Steve Rudolph asked if there were any other options and agreed it's hard to say the increase is because of the flags as there are other factors to consider.

The Planning Commission agreed they needed more time to discuss this.

Tamra Watts stated having the flags up over the holidays when people are home and buying gifts is important. Tamra stated she has expanded the craft beers, wine and liquor inventory to be more competitive with the prices.

The Planning Commission will discuss this at their January meeting as the December meeting will be cancelled due to the holiday. They also noted that they felt the flags would be more effective if they weren't up all of the time so that they are more noticeable.

4. Public Comments/Village Updates and Discussion

Village updates were discussed in regards to the proposed new sidewalks, Veterans Park, MTCO Park and grant opportunities.

5. Adjournment-A motion was made by Jim Willerton to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion was seconded by Scott Kramer. **Motion passed #2.**

Ann Sasso, Village Clerk