

Village of Germantown Hills

Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**-Jeff DeGroot called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

EDC Committee	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5
Jeff DeGroot-Village President/Chair	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stephanie Chaon	Present	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Justin Nena	Absent	-	-	-	-	-
Dan Mair	Absent	-	-	-	-	-
Nathan Henricks	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Veronica Axelson	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Randy Nash	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paige Patel	Present	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Ann Doubet-Director	Present	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of the January 12, 2023, EDC meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to approve the January 12, 2023, EDC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. **Motion passed #1.**

3. **Discussion and Recommendation to the Village Board on a Business Community Improvement Grant for Ann Alton Physical Therapy & Germantown Hills Chamber**

Ann Alton Physical Therapy has requested a business community improvement grant for a sign, and she has stated she meets the requirements of the grant.

A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to recommend to the village board a business community improvement grant for Ann Alton Physical Therapy sign in the amount of \$422.50. The motion was seconded by Randy Nash. **Motion passed #2.**

Veronica Axelson requested a business community improvement grant for the re-installation of roof lights. Veronica noted they are one of the only businesses that are open at night and feels it is an important safety issue to have the building lit up at night.

Randy Nash noted this appears to be more of a repair issue than an improvement.

Veronica stated part of the work had already been started but it is not done yet.

Stephanie Chaon noted that part of the requirements for the grant is for it to not be started yet and feels this is more of a maintenance issue than a new improvement.

The grant does allow for some maintenance.

Tom Eckstein asked how many of the lights have already been completed.

Veronica Axelson stated they had to do something as the lights were falling down off the building, so it has been started but not completed.

A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to recommend to the village board a business community improvement grant in the amount of \$466.19 for the re-installation of the roof lights. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. **Motion passed #3.**

The Germantown Hills Chamber and Art Korner have asked for a grant to re-face the Country Financial sign and purchase a new sign for the Chamber.

Ann noted the requirements of the grant are that it needs to be a business and they have to sign a lease for more than one year. The sign costs are \$2,500.00.

Veronica Axelson stated it is their intent to extend the lease for more than one year.

Randy Nash asked what Art Korner is.

Veronica explained that there are going to be artists that pay \$100 a month to display their art in a portion of the space the Germantown Hills Chamber has leased in the Kaufman Building. Veronica stated they got the space in August and will start paying rent in October.

Paige Patel noted at the Chamber meeting this morning that it was stated the Chamber is not a business.

Veronica noted the Chamber is a not-for-profit business.

A motion was made by Jeff DeGroot to recommend to the Village Board the approval of a Business Community Improvement Grant in the amount of \$1,250.00. The motion was seconded by Randy Nash. **Motion passed #4.**

4. Germantown Crossing & Farmer's Market Updates

Ann noted the Farmers Market is going well. There may be a potential developer for the 4 acre parcel the village owns and also in the Germantown Crossing shopping center. Ann will follow up.

5. Discussion on Promoting Village Businesses

Jeff DeGroot noted with MTCO Park development that the complex will help promote the area with the amount of people that will be in the community. The village will need to help promote that asset for our community.

Randy Nash stated the idea of looking to do an event such as Taste of Germantown Hills like other areas do to get people to visit a community.

Ann noted Discover Peoria is looking to promote the area as well.

Veronica Axelson stated years ago they did a tv commercial to help generate more business in the community.

6. **EDC Chairman/Director/Village President Reports**-Ann Doubet stated the village received a grant for the parking lot and first phase of the trail at the new park off of Fandel Road. We are still waiting to hear about the grant request for J.R. White Park Development.
7. **Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce Update**-Veronica Axelson stated the Chamber Garage Sales are in the area September 21-24th. Halloween on the Hill is on October 28th. The Community Prayer Breakfast is on October 25th. The Madrigal Singers will have a bigger role this year.
8. **School Updates and Germantown Hills Athletic Complex Update**-Dan Mair reported there was a groundbreaking this past week at MTCO Park and they are hoping for it to be completed and ready to go next summer.
9. **Germantown Hills Library Update**-Dawn Smith reported they are working on the remodeling of the Metamora Branch library and once it is done they may look to enlarge the conference room and parking lot at the Germantown Hills branch if possible.
10. **Business Round Table Updates**-None
11. **Next meeting – October 12, 2023, 5:00 p.m.** The next EDC meeting is at 5:00 p.m. at the village hall.
12. **Adjournment**-A motion was made by Stephanie Chaon to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Paige Patel. **Motion passed #5.**

Ann Doubet
Village Clerk