

Village of Germantown Hills

Economic Development Council Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**-Karl Figg called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

EDC Committee	Roll Call	1	2	3	4	5
Karl Figg-Village President/Chair	Present	Y	Y			
Elizabeth Cunningham	Present	Y	Y			
Justin Nena	Present	Y	Y			
Justin Krager	Absent	-	-			
Nathan Henricks	Absent	-	-			
Veronica Axelson	Absent	-	-			
Randy Nash	Absent	-	-			
Tom Eckstein	Present	Y	Y			
Paige Patel	Absent	-	-			
Adam Brumbaugh	Present	Y	Y			
Ann Doubet-Director	Present	Y	Y			

Also present:

Zack Hecht, Superintendent of Public Works
Reema Abi-Akar, Tri-County Planning Commission
Gavin Hunt, Tri-County Planning Commission
Ray Lees, Tri-County Planning Commission

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comments on Agenda Items-None**

3. **Approval of January 15, 2026, EDC meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Elizabeth Cunningham to approve January 15, 2026, EDC meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Eckstein. Motion passed #1.

4. **Discussion of the Germantown Hills Active Transportation Plan, including project goals and public engagement**

Gavin Hunt, Planner with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, outlined the purpose of the meeting: to share information on the benefits of active transportation for Germantown Hills, review project components, establish goals for measuring success, and identify opportunities for public engagement.

Reema Abi-Akar indicated that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) will be participating in gathering input for the Active Transportation Plan.

The committee reviewed the definition of active transportation, which encompasses human-powered modes of mobility such as walking, biking, skateboarding, scooters, and wheelchairs. Discussion highlighted the benefits of active transportation, including opportunities for recreational exercise and incorporating physical activity into daily routines, accessibility for people of all ages and abilities when properly designed, and economic advantages through increased foot traffic to local businesses.

Key elements of the Active Transportation Plan were presented, including existing conditions analysis, public engagement strategies, development of walking and biking networks, and an implementation guide.

The committee discussed project goals for success, which include improving connectivity, enhancing accessibility across different transportation modes, prioritizing needs, identifying safe and viable off-street connections, and designating appropriate road segments for bicycle use.

Reema Abi-Akar shared feedback from children at the school's spaghetti supper, who expressed a strong desire for safe places to walk and ride bikes.

The group considered how success can be tracked and a 10-year vision for walking and biking in Germantown Hills. Karl Figg emphasized the value of prioritizing and implementing projects to achieve early "quick wins," noting that he anticipates increased biking in the future not only for recreation but also for transportation.

Betsy Cunningham stressed that residents want safe connections to move throughout the community.

Local Strengths and Opportunities-Karl Figg highlighted the need for better connectivity to park assets. Residents have requested a safe connection between J.R. White Park and Oak Grove Park.

Adam Brumbaugh, Superintendent of Germantown Hills School, asked whether the trail connection from Arbor Vitae to MTCO Park could be advanced sooner, as it would significantly benefit students traveling over to MTCO Park for school activities.

Ann Doubet noted that this segment is already included in both the pedestrian bridge project and the Germantown Hills to Metamora trail project, so cost estimates should be readily available.

The committee agreed this would be an excellent enhancement for both the school and the broader community.

Public Engagement-The committee discussed potential public engagement activities for March and April, including social events, surveys, and a mailer. Members will continue to identify suitable opportunities for engagement.

Gavin Hunt summarized next steps which include reviewing the existing conditions report, development of an online survey, and coordination of school-based activities. The next update and discussion on existing conditions will take place at the EDC meeting on March 19.

5. EDC Chairman/Director Reports

Ann Doubet provided the following updates:

- After reviewing the details, the Business Community Improvement Grant for Britney Durst was found to be lower than initially thought. The corrected amount is \$1,238.77, leaving \$3,301.06 available for the current fiscal year.
- Germantown Crossing shopping center is considering submitting an invoice for garbage cans and benches under a Business Community Improvement Grant if Business District funds cannot be used. We are checking to see if this can be done.
- Planning to discuss TIFs (Tax Increment Financing) with Chris Setti at GPEDC.
- The Germantown Hills Fire District recently issued a burn ban.
- The Chamber's Pork Chop Event and Vendor Sale are scheduled for May 2nd.
- Community Cleanup Day will take place during the week of May 18th on your normal garbage day.

6. Germantown Hills Chamber of Commerce Update-No report.

7. School Updates-Adam Brumbaugh provided the State of the District Address for the committee's review. He highlighted some key points for the committee.

8. Business Round Table Updates-None

9. Next meeting– March 19, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment-A motion was made by Betsy Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by Justin Nena. Motion passed #2.

Ann Doubet, Village Clerk