

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
City of Germantown
May 16, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Heidi Grant, Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, Bryce Henson, Mike Kuhn

Also Present: Will Parsons, Community Relations Manager; Pat Higgins, Economic Development and City Grant Writer; Keith Brane, Planning Consultant; Judy Gilleland, City Manager; Mary Crockett, Downtown Manager; Mike Roseberry, Property Maintenance Officer

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am

Approval of minutes

The April 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

Progress report for April/May

- Mary shared that the vinyl wraps would most likely be up on May 17. She is very pleased with the art and thinks it could inspire business ideas.
- Mark inquired as to the placement of the New View outdoor dining, Judy informed him that it would be in the parking lot, not on the road. New View also submitted the first mural application, will be located adjacent to the outdoor dining.
- Tom encouraged everyone to drive by Center St at night to see the new exterior lights in the alley. Mike K shared that the individual who did this has a lot of good experience. The City could look into different ways of emulating this in other areas. Bryce shared that Pikeville has many great examples of decorated alleys. The group discussed alleys further as well as ways of using the Covered Bridge in a similar fashion for events.
- Work is being done on the upper floor windows of the Opera House.
- The courtyard by the old hardware store is having some work done and has potential for a mural.
- Opening Day at Historical Society went well.
- Mary shared that Great Ohio Bike Tour is coming through town and stopping at VMP in June. Ways to be involved were discussed. Mark shared that the Major Taylor Bike Club is coming in July and he will see if they can stop at VMP too. Mary will look to get swag bags. Group discussed how to coordinate with merchants.
- Discussed using Google Maps to make custom maps of Downtown Germantown.
- Landbank did a survey on May 15 at 53 W Market, feeling optimistic. Property will be closed on in next few weeks.

Possible Grant Opportunities

Held Zoom meeting with USDA on rural development. Bryce Henson and Scott Weidle were present. There is potential for Bryce to make use of some programs. Bryce discussed what some of the work he would like to accomplish through these programs. Pat shared that it is a long process.

CDGB applications are being completed, will go toward generators at the Senior Center to make it an emergency shelter. Also seeking funds through historic preservation category for Covered Bridge improvements.

Had a consultation with a representative of US Economic Development Administration. He was interested in the downtown and Triangle Station. He has offered to attend a meeting and share how the EDA can assist. They do not give money directly to cities; instead it usually goes to planning agencies or groups of communities.

Property Maintenance Update

Judy discussed the letter sent to downtown property owners. It was meant to be friendly but show that this is a priority. She shared about Mike R's role and relationship with property owners. If enforcement is needed, the City will go that route. The group discussed altering Mike R's title from Inspector to something more encouraging. Mike R then gave a brief update on his current work.

Introduction of Alley Vacation Ordinance for the Florentine

The ordinance was run through Planning Commission and introduced at the May Council meeting, the public hearing is in June. Bryce shared the impact a patio space can have on a restaurant, hoping that this will have a similar effect as those in neighboring communities. Heidi inquired as to how deliveries would be affected, the group discussed. Mark inquired as to the extent of the vacation, Bryce explained.

Mike K discussed Mark's speech on behalf of the Historical Society of Germantown. He expressed appreciation and understanding of their position, but feels that the most important thing that can be done for preservation of historic buildings in town is to make sure they remain profitable. He also mentioned how he feels that the patio will serve to be a community gathering space, much how the alleys were originally intended.

Tom mentioned that the alley behind the bank has long term potential as a gathering space as well.

Mark expressed hope that the historic alley system would be marked in some way in order to highlight them. He feels this would bring more attention to a unique aspect of Germantown's history.

Other Business

Mike K shared that he and Mary spoke to the Lions Club, stressing that so many of the core volunteers of Germantown are members. Mark H thanked them for attending.

Will is finalizing details with the by-Jo to run concessions at upcoming Movie in the park night at VMP. Heidi said FNBG would be the final sponsor for the events. Mark said that the Lions club could potentially do grilled foods at the events. Mike R asked about weather issues at these events, and Will discussed the company's policy and plans.

Hedy Riegler will have a sneak peek of the Artisan Market at the July Saturday Night Out.

Adjourned at 10:30 am