

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
City of Germantown
April 21, 2022
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, Heidi Grant and Mike Kuhn

ALSO PRESENT: Judy Gilleland, City Manager, Keith Brane, Planning Consultant and Pat Higgins,
ED Consultant/City Grant Writer

The meeting was called to order by Tom Winning at 9:04am

Approval of the Minutes

Heidi made a motion to approve the March minutes with a correction regarding the previous approved minutes, Mike seconded the motion, the minutes were approved.

Review of Strengths and Opportunities (SWOT)

Tom began the discussion by reviewing the "uniques" selected last month. The priorities identified were:

1. Camp Miami potential
2. Public spaces, city parks and Five Rivers Metroparks
3. Historic downtown including the buildings and alleys

Tom indicated the committee needed to identify the top 3 priorities of opportunities to be addressed. After an in-depth discussion of the list of issues identified, the committee identified the top priorities as:

1. Parking
2. Marketing of Downtown
3. Signage needs at the Gateways
4. Underutilized Retail Space

The Cherry Street Church was also briefly discussed and the need to contact the new owners and determine their plans. A DORA – Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area was also discussed as a tool to attract visitors to downtown Germantown.

Montgomery County Landbank Program

Judy updated everyone on the recent City Council action to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montgomery County Land Bank. The landbank has numerous programs to help cities on a variety of projects. Staff is looking at a planning grant to hire a consultant to look at downtown. The project will not be started until later this year.

Other Business

Judy reviewed several projects underway:

1. Germantown community survey that will be going out soon includes questions regarding downtown.
2. Recently, the city has entered into a contract with CT Consultants to prepare a Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan Update. This project will help with future development plans along Route 4.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10am