

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
City of Germantown
September 19, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Heidi Grant, Tom Winning, Mark Heistand, Dave Eshbaugh, Mike Kuhn
Also Present: Will Parsons, Community Relations Manager; Pat Higgins, Economic Development and City Grant Writer; Mike Roseberry, Property Maintenance; Brooke Nauta, Dupps Company

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am

Approval of minutes

The August minutes were approved.

Monthly Update

No additions recommended to be added to the monthly update (attached at end of minutes).

Recruitment of Downtown Event Planner

Will Parsons, Pat Higgins, Heidi Grant, and Dave Eshbaugh were present for the first round of interviews in which 9 candidates were brought in. The interviewers shared that on top of some very promising candidates, there were also many good ideas generated. The group has narrowed the pool down to 4 final candidates which will come in for a second round of interviews on Tuesday, September 24. During this follow-up interview, the candidates will be presenting on a hypothetical spring event that the interviewers tasked them with.

Property Maintenance

Mike R shared a slide show of downtown properties that have completed or are in the process of completing positive work. The idea was put forth of highlighting these positive examples in the newsletter, on the website, and on Facebook. It was also brought up that these photos could be shared with stakeholders who were present for the presentation of the Downtown Redevelopment Plan, especially those residences that have been fixed up and have people living in them.

Along with the revitalization efforts, the group also discussed how murals and art can have a positive effect. Mark mentioned the murals in Centerville and the impact they have.

On top of the City Beautiful Commission, it was mentioned that the Historical Society of Germantown also presents a preservation award each year.

Mike R gave some further updates on some properties that are still in need of further work.

Dave E also shared that he has had conversations with another property owner about potentially working with him on moving to a different location. The group discussed this possibility.

Parking Downtown

Dave shared a map that shows the many parking spaces that are designated as 2 hour parking. There are many businesses in this area that have carryout food/drinks and other businesses that have quick pick-ups. So, the possibility of suggesting that some of these spots be re-classified as 10 minute parking (during specific hours).

If all shops were tagged for this, there would be 21 spots changed. If only food/drink establishments, there would be 7.

Dave presented a mock-up of what the 10 minute parking sign could look like. They would have the City's bridge logo as well as the hours. This would be policed by the businesses, but enforced by GPD. The signs could be permanently placed or temporarily placed using weighted, moveable stands.

Mike K stated that if this initiative was for food/drink establishments in particular, he thought it was a good idea, but has concerns if the spots were converted for every single downtown business. He thinks the City needs to be selective when deciding where to place these altered parking hours.

The group had a general consensus on suggesting having 10 minute parking instituted downtown, especially at the existing restaurant/beverage establishments.

Mike K highlighted the importance of making it clear that the consequences of violating these regulations would come from GPD. However, the group did discuss that in most cases the PD would need to be notified by the business owners. New legislation will be needed to make these regulations enforceable.

It was also mentioned that the City Council is currently reevaluating all of the downtown handicapped spots. More should be heard about this in the future.

Mike K also suggested that the 10 minute parking spots be kept on an application basis. Mark suggested doing a pilot program that could last a year.

Dave will make another map highlighting just the businesses discussed by the committee as presenting the most need for 10 minute parking.

Miscellaneous

Pat shared that the Call for Artists has been put out on the City's Facebook and website for the mural program. She has received some interest. The group then discussed some potential murals that may be in town in the near future as well as utilizing the art departments of local colleges. Dave mentioned approaching businesses that have ideal walls that the City could use to paint artistic signage. Mark asked about reimbursing existing murals, but Pat did not think this was doable.

Mike K shared that 36 N main St has a cheer and tumbling group coming in.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am

Germantown Economic Development Committee
Downtown Initiatives as Outlined by Downtown Redevelopment
Plan
Monthly Update of City Staff Activities – AUG/SEPT

- **Fill Storefronts**
 - Hedy & Co “Makers and Merchants Market” has opened.
 - Ribbon cutting Oct 11
 - Dipsticks opening soon
- **Identify “shameless promoter”**
 - Preliminary interviews held Tuesday, Sept 17 for Downtown Event Planner
- **Celebrate Successes**
 - Patio and planters added in front of 53 West Market
 - Two businesses marking major milestones – 50 years of business for Roger at Village Flower Shop and 25 years for Jackie at Laffs. Both will be acknowledged in upcoming newsletter and at a City Council meeting. They were also acknowledged in the newspaper
- **Add Outdoor Dining**
 - New outdoor dining at Alleyway Cafe and Florentine has been well received by community
- **Reclaim Alleys**
 - Temporary closure approved for Dipsticks
- **Public Art/Murals/Music/Cinema**
 - Staff and Mural Committee has completed
 - The mural art/vinyl wrap program guidelines
 - Call for Artists
 - Application for Financial Assistance for Mural/Vinyl Wrap
 - Call for Artist information on City’s Facebook Pages and emailed to Dayton and Cincinnati Art Museum and Galleries
 - Businesses and property owners will be notified with assistance of Chamber