

**Economic Development Commission
Thursday, August 6, 2009
Department of Development Blue Room
1920 South Germantown Road**

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission was held Thursday, August 6, 2009, in the Department of Development Blue Room. Chairman Jerry Klein called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and a quorum was established.

PRESENT: Chairman Jerry Klein, Jane Clark, Chris Harrison, Rocky Janda, Lyle Muller, Brian Pecon, Thom Parzinger, Alderman Carole Hinely and Susan Burrow

ABSENT: Charles McCraw and John Wagner.

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant City Administrator Andy Pouncey and Economic Development Coordinator Katie Graffam.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Chris Harrison, seconded by Rocky Janda, to approve the May 7, 2009 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Rocky Janda, seconded by Chris Harrison, to approve the June 4, 2009 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

2009 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Poplar/TDOT

John Wagner and Andy Pouncey gave an update on the Poplar/TDOT project, including the Smart Growth status and the Germantown Road Alignment.

Chamber of Commerce

Jane Clark reported 6 business drops, 20 renewals and 9 new memberships. She mentioned the Chamber's new website that will offer marketing opportunities for retailers and memberships.

Existing Business

Katie Graffam reported on a meeting held recently with Shops of Forest Hill retailers to come up with ways the City could be of assistance to them. She also mentioned the new water bill that will feature local shops and stores.

Christmas Village

Ms. Graffam reported on a meeting she had with Mahaffey Tent. Some of the highlights of meeting were:

- Mahaffey Tent is willing to co-sponsor the event with the City.
- MahaffeyTent will furnish a big tent for the John Gray House with a small tent for Santa, and they will sponsor most of the heating and give the City a price break on lighting.
- Arts Memphis is doing a feature on Mahaffey Tent and will talk about the Kris Kringle Market in their next publication.
- Any advertisement by the City will have to include Mahaffey Tent.

The dates are December 12 and 13th, Noon to 6:00 P.M. Tents will be set up on Friday, the 10th, the Market on Saturday, the same day as the Christmas Parade, and also that Sunday. Ms. Graffam stated next step will be preparation of a format for vendors, which will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Economic Development Commission.

There was also a brief discussion on nutcrackers, street lighting and placement of directional banners.

Discussion Medical Device Industry

Larry Papasan, who is involved in the medical implant industry, made a presentation to the Economic Development Commission at their May meeting on the medical device industry and stated there are companies who have an interest of possibly locating in the mid-south.

Jerry Klein stated he, Brian Pecon and Andy Pouncey have made numerous contacts to discuss the medical device industry and have also spoken to Mayor Goldsworthy and received the go ahead to move forward with the project.

Brian Pecon gave a report on research he has done on the needs of such companies who want to get started in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries. He stated a lot of businesses need space and obviously dollars to get started. Germantown being an attractive location, he asked for input from the Commission as to what Germantown would have to do to attract these kinds of companies.

Mr. Pecon mentioned the Tennessee Legislature had just passed INVESTCO, a \$120 Million program geared for insurance companies to buy into such firms and provide the capital but they get the investment tax credits and obviously make these available through an investment package to small companies. The criteria is that it must be a TN company within the boundaries within the state of Tennessee and must have 2/3's or 3/4's of the employees must be from the state.

Chairman Klein asked the Commission to provide input into an inventory of what the City has to offer in the way of space and other things a start-up company would need. He mentioned Andy Pouncey and Katie Graffam already have a physical plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Andy Pouncey reported on Kroger's plans to expand. He stated two meetings had taken place with them and another meeting is planned to review their drawings and then have them come before the Design Review Commission.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (PROJECTS IN PROGRESS)

Katie Graffam gave a short presentation of current projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting is September 3, 2009.