

CITY OF GERMANTOWN  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
December 7, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Bo Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum:  
Members Present: Chairman Bo Adams, Vice Mayor Mary Anne Gibson, Michelle Johns, Brandon Toney, Jabin Newhouse, Bruce Meisterman, Mark Ruleman, Janie Day  
Members Absent: Lauren King, Jerry Klein, Melissa Kimbrough, Matt Monteath, Cliff Sulcer  
Staff Present: Cameron Ross, Economic and Community Development Director Diane DeSanctis, Economic and Community Development Coordinator
3. Minutes:  
October minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> motion Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – Mark, minutes unanimously approved.  
November minutes – 1<sup>st</sup> motion, Michelle, 2<sup>nd</sup> motion – Mark, minutes unanimously approved.
4. Guest Speaker – Cat Pena, Public Art Director for the City of Germantown, shared her background as an artist and some previous projects she has been involved in, including the EDGE district project designed to draw people to an area. Cat provided information on the Shared Canopy Project along the Wolf River Greenway (The Blue Trees) to bring awareness to deforestation and the Tree Tones Project, an audio art project worth exploring and experiencing, that includes 60 wind bells with 6 different tones representing the 6 different ecosystems. Cat pointed out the connection and importance between public art and economic development in providing an opportunity to create culture and awareness. Public art, whether permanent or temporary, will always be subjective by nature, and not everything will please everyone, but discussions and involvement of ideas of citizens creates a great dialog. Public art provides a sense of community pride, especially as visitors know they can visit safely. Cameron provided information on Smart Code top tier large mixed used projects that set aside a percentage of the budget up to \$200,000 to either invest in public art that is open to the public, or to give to the city's Public Art Fund to manage under the Public Art Master Plan.
5. Chairman's Reports (Old Business):  
EDC members will continue their role as Ambassadors for the City, in promoting new and existing business and to always be on the lookout for businesses would be a great fit for Germantown. Filming of shop and dine local campaign completed by Marketing. Previous interviews conducted, some are in the can, some in editing or undergoing additional footage. Interviews will continue. It was suggested to do follow-up interviews with those that had been interviewed to get their comments.
6. New Business:  
The Mission Statement for the EDC was finalized as follows:  
*The Economic Development Commission promotes vitality and economic stability ensuring our City remains a center for growth and innovation.*
7. Adjournment:  
There being no further business, comments, or questions by the Commission, Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

EDC Chairman Bo Adams \_\_\_\_\_