

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Thursday, January 6, 2011
Blue Conference Room
1920 South Germantown Road

The regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) was held Thursday, January 6, 2011, in the Blue Conference Room. Chairman Jerry Klein called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chris Harrison, Rocky Janda, Jerry Klein, Brian Pecon, Donald Robbins, David Rea, Wanda Richards, John Wagner, Marc Johnson, John Walker, Susan Burrow, Charles McCraw and Greg Marcom

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Andy Pouncey, Economic and Development Services Director, Patrick Lawton, City Administrator

PROCEDURES

Patrick Lawton went over the Code of Ethics procedures, Vision 2020 and Opening Meetings Law in Tennessee.

Nomination of Vice Chairman

Brian Pecan was nominated as Vice Chairman.

MINUTES

The December 2, 2010 minutes were approved.

Review of 2010 End-of-Year Report – Mr. Pouncey provided an overview for the members.

Budget:

Mr. Pouncey stated we have \$5,000.00 in our budget for the fiscal year. The budget currently has \$1,991.00. We still need funds to award the Business Appreciation Plaques at the Business Expo in April 2011. We give plaques and recognition to those businesses that have been in the City 25 to 50 years.

The EDC needs to put together an Economic Development Strategy Plan. This starts with the Vision 2020 and there are four basic goals as part of the Economic Sustainability Plan. The four goals are: (1) Business Development (2) Home-Based Businesses, (3) Heart of Germantown, Retail Development and Smart Growth, (4) Medical and Healthcare.

2010 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. **Home-Based Business**

Before the next meeting, we will also attempt to identify all home-based businesses with a business license. Mr. Pouncey stated on an average month 50% of the business licenses that are applied for are home-based businesses and 25 % are contractors who come in to do work and leave for the day. 25% are brick and mortar.

b. **Poplar/TDOT**

Staff is currently seeking prices to relocate the overhead communication lines to underground. The intersections being considered are Poplar at West, Germantown Road and Exeter as well as Germantown Road and West Farmington. The Poplar widening project was re-bid in the month of December 2010 and we are told they are going to accept the low bid.

c. ArtFront Project

Mr. Klein stated there were too many "for lease" signs in the retail centers of the City. Therefore, we met with the staff at GPAC to have Art on display all year long. We wanted art galleries to display art and photography in those empty buildings and their show windows, and still keep a small lease sign.

d. Medical Device Industry

Dr. Steve Bares and Brandon Wellford of the Memphis Bioworks Foundation (MBF) discussed the creation of a Germantown campus with 20,000 square feet, specific to medical devices with the BMA. The Commission spent the entire year meeting with representatives of the MBF to discover the needs of such a campus and was instrumental in providing location opportunities. Last night was a BMA work session for the Memphis Bioworks Foundation and Andy Pouncey, Jerry Klein, Brian Pecon and John Wagner were able to attend.

e. Retail/Business Centers

There were no business visits in December.

f. Programs (Future)

In the coming year, the Commission will develop an Economic Development Strategy referencing Vision 2020 (Economic Sustainability Plan) and Code.

ECD PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Mr. Pouncey stated we have the construction plans for the Dogwood Ridge Retirement Community and they have received their second review. We had a landscape architect group come in to talk about a proposed subdivision on the north side of Poplar near Ashmont. They may file as early as March. Wolf River Boulevard construction will start in the spring. To tell you how big that project is, if you took all the trucks that will be bringing in dirt and lined them end to end it would go from Memphis to Nashville which is 185 miles. There are also two bridges to be built. There will be a new traffic light at Methodist Hospital. We just finished the double turn lane at Farmington and Germantown Road. Farmington Road Phase II (resurfacing) will begin in the spring from Allenby to Kimbrough, Kimbrough to Exeter and then Exeter to Germantown Road. We have to be through for the Race for the Cure in October 2011.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission is inclined to bring ArtFront back into existence. The GPAC, who handled the project in 2010, would like an assurance that if it takes up the project again, it will not be discontinued. They took a public relations hit on this project when it was discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

Memphis & Shelby County attorneys worked with staff to modify the existing Industrial Development Board (IDB) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 3, 2011.