

Germantown Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Minutes

1/29/2021 at 9am ET on Zoom (Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89214546078?pwd=RTINOVFxVE9lVVZhZmZtWnJucGpaUT09>)

Attendance: Ben, Pippa, Sarah, Tracy, Tony, Genette

Review minutes from last meeting (11/27/20)

Approved; Sarah      Second; Ben

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Flyer Update from Tony**

Tony: Early this morning Doug sent the final version. We are going to check it one more time as a committee and then it will be presented to the Town Board for final approval.

**Next:** Final check then Town Board approval before going to print

### **2. Writing Contest Update from Pippa**

*Final Contest results, Final sponsorship contribution and distribution totals and process, Final Sponsor List*

- **Final Sponsor List:**
  - Financial Sponsors: Gianni Iacono, Dr. Amy Jo Davison, Gaskins, Tony Albino, GCS Band Director, Otto's, Germantown Laundromat, The McClarnon Family, Marsh Meadow Farm, GTel, Cats' View Farm, 224 Main Street LLC, Central House Hotel, Mary MacGill, East Camp Goods, Crumble + Melt Delivered, Alder, Dr. Angelo Castello, Bonhomie Farm, Palatine Park Pizza, Suarez family, DC Studios LLC
  - Gift Sponsors: Pop's Universe, Quittner, the Germantown Library, Gabrielle Balkan
- **Total Funds Raised as Sponsorship: \$1675**
- **Total Funds Spent on Prizes: \$1445**
- **Total Remaining Funds: \$230**
- **Prize Winners (First Name and Initial)**
  - **K-5 Combined Writing & Art**
    - Grand Prize: Cera B.
    - Grand Prize: Georgia B.
    - Runner-Up: Evelyn M.
    - Runner-Up: Josephine B.
    - Finalist: Dashiell Y.
    - Finalist: Toula L.
  - **6-8 Art**
    - Grand Prize: Alani B.

- Runner-Up: Elisha S.
  - Finalist: Cristina M.
- **6-8 Writing**
  - Grand Prize: Nikita W.
  - Runner-Up: Fiona K.
  - Finalist: Flynn D.
- **9-12 Art**
  - Grand Prize: Ayla B.
  - Runner-Up: Isaac W.
  - Finalist: Hailey M.
- **9-12 Writing**
  - Grand Prize: Julia P.
  - Runner Up: Brianna E.
  - Finalist: Michael V.
- **Next Steps:** Roll \$230 over to prize packs for next year
- **Update on Library Display**
  - Interest dropped off, so planning to do next year with revised submission process that includes physical collection of entries and any necessary permission slips
- **NEXT STEPS:** Put on agenda for October with goal of collecting sponsorships in October/November, then planning out the competition for launch in February

### 3. Holiday Celebrations Recap

- Luminaries were so beautiful and a wonderful moment of coming together. Whole town coming together.
- There is leftover supplies for future use, and the Parks Commission purchased the tree supplies (lights and stand) so we have those moving forward.
- Overall response from town team is that the set-up, event, and clean-up went well.
- **Next Steps:** Plan for next year is for residencies to buy kits and set them up themselves to light on a shared night. This would also be started in October. Keep on agenda to pick a date to start planning in early fall.

### 4. Business list update

- See changes sent to Tony Albino for the Brochure. The dentist is closed, East Asian Medicine Institute has moved to Elizaville, and Pearson Chiropractic is closed.
- Sarah is going to update the business list on the town website.
- **Next Steps:** Pippa send Sarah the GEDAC business list (check with recent updates, etc.)

### 5. GEDAC Instagram

- Taking a small hiatus from it because we all need a breather. It's ok for us to take a break, and we can pick it back up.
- **Next Steps:** Taking a deep breath, but possibility of GTown take-overs by local businesses in the future.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Discussion of the formation of a town short-term rentals committee

#### *Letters of Interest due Feb. 1*

- The subcommittee has been announced and is still receiving submissions. Sarah says committee will be selected before or at the next Town Board meeting (needs to confirm). Sarah has submitted to be on the committee, and there has been a ton of response — mostly from owners of short-term rentals.
- Genette: We can learn a lot by reviewing the Columbia Paper and the history of how the short-term rental conversation has played out in neighboring towns. Considering applying for the committee, but either way very important to take it upon ourselves as a town to be proactive in creating town policies
- Sarah: Has been a process of information gathering and seeing what has worked and not worked. We went to avoid this becoming a more contentious issue and instead something that works for the town.
- Genette: All about seeing what's good for Germantown
- Tracy: Let's put this on the Agenda moving forward for updates. (Also on the Climate Smart Task Force so can give relevant update)
- Pippa: What are the rules for membership to the committee as far as residency?
- Sarah: The board needs to make a final decision, but right now prioritizing Germantown Residents.
- **Next Steps:** Keep this on the agenda so that we can stay on top of the conversation! Sarah will also post on the Instagram.

### 2. Introduction of Finances Spreadsheet

- A committee finances spreadsheet has been created to increase transparency. This will be used to calculate what we have allocated where and for what.
- Suggestion from Tracy: put expenses and income in two separate columns?
- **Next Steps:** Tracy will send Pippa Parks sheet to model edits, including columns for earmarking (movie night funds, writing competition), thank you's, etc.

**Additional notes:** If the PC expands their mission, more will fall under it, empowering more partnerships between other non-501©3 committees and the Parks Commission. Tony gives specific example of the Parsonage struggling to raise money. Sarah says that the Parks Commission is working on expanding their mission to make this possible.

Next Meeting: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9am

Motion to adjourn: Tony ; Second: Sarah