

NOTICE

A meeting of the City of Evansville Economic Development Committee will be held on the date and at the time stated below. Notice is further given that enough members of the City Council may be present to constitute a “meeting” under Wisconsin statutes and this constitutes notice of any such meeting. Requests for persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made by calling City Hall: (608)-882-2266 with as much advance notice as possible. Please silence cell phones and electronic devices during the meeting.

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 17th, 2026
City Hall, 3rd Floor, 31 S Madison St, Evansville, WI
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Motion to approve the agenda.
4. Motion to waive the reading of the February 16th, 2026 minutes and approve as printed.
5. Civility reminder
6. Citizen Appearances, other than listed agenda items
7. New Business
8. Old Business
9. Monthly Reports
 - A. Community Development Report
 - B. Chamber of Commerce Report
 - C. Tourism Commission Report
10. Discussion
11. Next Meeting Date:
 - A. April 16th, 2026, 4:30-6:30pm – 170 E Church Public Input Session at VFW
(attendance optional)
 - B. April 20th, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
12. Motion to Adjourn.

- *Joe Geoffrion, Chairperson*

City of Evansville **Economic Development Committee**
 Regular Meeting
 3rd Floor City Hall, 31 S Madison Street, Evansville, WI 53536
 Monday, February 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order. 6:00 pm by Geoffrion.

2. Roll Call:

	Present/Absent	Others Present
Joe Geoffrion, Chair	P	Erik Ferrar (ECSD)
Kelly Shannon	P	Bronna Lehmann, Eager Free Public Library
Jon Alling	P	Colette Spranger, Com. Dev. Director
Paul Liesse	P	
Brandon Rutz	A	
Pat Carr	A	
Sue Berg	P	

3. Motion to Approve Agenda as printed. Motion by Berg, second by Alling. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Motion to waive the reading of the minutes from December 15th, 2025 meeting approve as printed. Motion by Berg, second by Liesse. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Civility Reminder

6. Citizen appearances, other than listed agenda items

None.

7. New Business

A. Library and Programming Partnership

Bronna Lehmann, Director of the Eager Free Public library, visits and describes her involvement in the Belleville economic development committee when she was library director for that community. They did adult programming and coordinated speakers once or twice a year, gauging interest from the public. She recommends engaging with outside sources such as SCORE (Service Council of Retired Executives) and economic development specialists at UW Extension. Geoffrion wonders how to leverage library services to support businesses, such as creating long term and general business plans for new proprietors. Berg suggest the library could be a natural place to store materials needed for new business owners. Lehmann notes the library is already in high use for work-from-home types and that the library website contains

many resource that patrons can access remotely. She cautions against, or at least suggests careful planning, for using funds for subscription services that may or may not get used. She will look into what resources to acquire using the Connect to Community funds distributed by Evansville Water & Light.

B. Review and Motion to Recommend Common Council Approval of Application for Downtown Upper Level Housing Unit Rehabilitation

One remaining bit of ARPA money has yet to be extended. \$50,000 has been earmarked for rehabilitation of downtown residential apartments above commercial units. The application for property owners to fill out needs to be approved. Spranger suggests a format similar to the Building Improvement Grant, which can be used in addition to the ARPA grant. The committee debated a clawback clause if funds are not used appropriately. If returned, the funds would need to go back to the federal government. Minor grousing on the merits of the money staying in the community versus going back to Washington.

8. Old Business.

9. Monthly Reports

A. Community Development Update. 170 E Church, a city-owned site, has received a planning grant from the EPA. MSA Professional Services is running this project on behalf of the City. Bank of New Glarus received approval from Plan Commission. Updates from WEDA statewide conference: Evansville is not a likely contender for a data center any time soon. Dunphy and Spranger did a couple of business visits in the downtown. Dunphy, Spranger, and Shannon attended a Connect Communities roundtable and reported it was an enlivening conversation with much food for thought.

B. Chamber Update. Shawn Dunphy not present.

C. Tourism Update. Grove Society visited at the February Tourism meeting to talk about programming. The museum has had a lot of foot traffic in the past year. There is much talk about the 250th anniversary of the nation. There is also a tentative committee formed to spearhead 4th of July celebrations.

10. Discussion

11. Next Meeting Dates:

A. Regular Meeting: March 16,12 2026 at 6:00 PM.

12. Adjourn.



Community Development Updates

March 2026 Colette Spranger, Community Development Director

- **170 E Church**
 - Public Input session: April 16th, 4:30-6:30pm. VFW has agreed to host! Please invite neighbors, friends, any interested party.
 - Phase II Environmental Assessment will be required due to what was found in the first survey of the site. This will also be covered by the Wisconsin Assessment Monies (WAM) Grant.
 - A Site Assessment Grant (SAG) will be applied for this summer; this will get us funding to take down the building
- **Youth Center Updates**
 - Committee of the Whole discussed this on February 28th. Agreed that the building itself must come down. A RFP is likely for the site's ongoing use and rebuild. Evansville Wrestling Club has expressed interest in a long-term lease of the land and would like to build a simple building on site for their club. Other developers have suggested duplex or single family housing. Site is zoned B-1; could go either way.
 - Actual programming for youth is still up for debate. The school district has some funding (Fund 80) that could go toward supporting extra programming; Creekside has also mentioned interest in hosting programming.
- **Town of Porter Boundary Agreement**
 - Joint Public Hearing: March 30th, 6:30pm at City Hall
 - Initial discussions with the Town have been positive; they would like to see this done
- **Business Updates**
 - **Kwik Trip Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting:** April 7th. 9am for the grand opening, 10am for ribbon cutting. (Officially opening: March 19th at 5:00am)
 - **Grange Store signage discussion.** Historic Preservation had a very interesting discussion regarding the potential restoration of an old

marquee sign on the Grange Store (i.e. Hometown Pharmacy). In the 1950s, this was a neon sign. The current owner would like to restore the sign with neon; neon is not allowed in the B-2 zoning district, which covers most of the downtown. Why is this interesting? The sign makers have reported that similar restoration projects in other small cities with historic district have improved the look and feel of those downtowns. Stay tuned!

- **Edgerton Hospital:** on hold until 2027, but still very interested in expanding services here
- **CHS:** the project is still under consideration by the cooperative board of the company. Demolition of non-essential structures has occurred on site.
- **Other Updates**
 - Victor Gensini, hail specialist, will be at Creekside on April 22nd to discuss severe storms like the one Evansville experienced in April 2025. Resident Bob McAllister has been spearheading this project. To get involved or learn more, contact him at: mccallir@uww.edu



March 2026
Evansville Area Chamber of Commerce
Director Update

Upcoming Chamber Events/Ribbon Cuttings/Grand Openings

Ribbon Cuttings: KWIK Trip - April 7th (Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting 9-11 am, ribbon cutting at 10 am)
, Evansville Wellness Group May 16th, Bare Skin Wax - spring/summer
Community Coffee Tuesday, April 14th - Lake Ridge Bank 8-10am
Evansville Art Crawl Friday, May 8th
Golf Outing Friday, June 19th

Upcoming Community Events

Spread Kindness Day - March 13th
Casino Night Creekside Place March 14th
School Forest Award Butch Beedle 11 a.m. School Forest
Election Day April 7th
EHS Spring Musical April 17-19
Ice Age Trail Alliance walk through Evansville - April 25 from 1-4pm
Evansville Art Crawl - May 8th

Economic Development

Business Visits

Tourism Updates

Mural Projects - 5 Ladies Returning To Lake Ridge Bank, Finishing touches on Rex Theater Mural
The Banners are UP!

Chamber Projects & Happenings

Membership Renewals 2026
Art Crawl planning
Community Guide 2026 updates

NEW Chamber Members

Bare Skin Beauty & Wax
Black Dog Digital
Kwik Trip - open March 19th
American Family Insurance- Eric Spanton
Farnsworth Enterprises
Putnam Exteriors
Southcentral WI HVAC
Evansville Auto Spa (formerly Papa Dukes Carwash)
Twig & Rue Boutique

NEW Businesses (recent & coming soon)

Hwy 14 Smokes & Spirits
Dominos
Bank of New Glarus
Sienna Crest Assisted Living

City of Evansville
Evansville Tourism Commission
March 2026 Summary Submitted by Sue Berg

The Evansville Tourism Commission does not meet in March. The Commission meets every other month: February, April, June, August, October and December. Please see the February 2026 summary.

Updates

The Fourth of July Festival will proceed this year under the leadership and management of a volunteer committee. Creekside Place has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent, and Brandi Sperry is representing Creekside as well as serving as the committee's temporary project manager.

Activities with Tourism Potential

1. Evansville Underground Music – check calendar
<https://evansvilleundergroundmusic.org/calendar/>
2. Concerts on Allen Creek
3. <https://www.facebook.com/allencreekcoffeehouse>
4. Hop Garden music
5. <https://www.facebook.com/HopGardenEvansville>
6. Evansville Jays Hometown Baseball League <https://www.facebook.com/EvansvilleJays>
7. Creekside Casino Night March 14
8. EHS High School Musical April 17-19
9. Creekside Indoor Garage Sale April 17-19
10. Ice Age Trail Hike April 25
11. Creekside Cruise Night May 7
12. Art Crawl May 8
13. Memorial Day Recognition May 25
14. Creekside Cruise Night June 4
15. Annual Chamber Golf Outing June 19
16. FEFPL Ice Cream Social June 26
17. A Lake Leota Fourth of July - July 3-5
18. Fun Run July 4
19. Creekside Cruise Night July 9

Next meeting dates April 9 and June 11, 2026