

Neighborhood Preservation Commission
August 13, 2009
Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Community Development.

Chairman Rebecca DeRousse was present and presiding.

In attendance –Larry Farabee, Sandra Hayne, David Jackson, Sidney Kuehn, Hope Pittman, Andrea Vu, Stanley Weinrich,

Absent – Bonnie Blair, Beth Jackson, Alderman - Mark Billingsley Rick Bennett – Planning Commission Liaison

Also in attendance – Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services, Sherrye Rhea-Neighborhood Services, Billy Brown – CONA,

A quorum was established and minutes were approved as written for June and July.

Chairmen's Comments – None at this time

Reports

Alderman Mark Billingsley report – Alderman Billingsley was not present therefore there was no report.

Neighborhood Services report – Joe Nunes gave a brief report on the MLGW leader's conference. There was a session on the 2004 Preservation Act that Sherrye sat in on. Also, there was an update on the 2010 census and what neighborhoods could expect, they wanted everyone to participate in the census. There was also a facebook session, eco friendly gardening, after the storm, which gave some information from MLGW and Red Cross. Once a storm hits what do you do? How do you contact MLGW to report power outages and get updates on outages. It was a good program.

Planning Commission – Joe Nunes reported that there was not a meeting this past month however there are a couple of items on the agenda for next month. The first is a proposed two lot subdivision on Kimbrough. It is on the west side of Kimbrough between Dogwood and Dogwood Villa. Right now there are a lot of trees in the area. It will be the only houses in that section that faces Kimbrough. They are proposing to be a gated community. The other item on the agenda; in old Germantown, the Methodist Church has purchased 3 pieces of property across the street on the east side of Germantown Road. They have been to the Design and Review Commission and received approval to have the cottage antique torn down to put in more parking. They are going to use the two buildings on the north side of the lot and put landscaping around the buildings. They will keep the building on the south side of the lot. Kanettes, Cottage and the lot next door to that property with the two buildings on it were all purchased. It will have a curved drive with some landscaping. The church tried to restore the cottage however after reports from engineers, surveyors and others it was found that it would not be feasible to keep the house. The Germantown Historical Commission was contacted to see if the Cottage had any historical significance.

The question was asked about the proposed assisted living facility on Poplar Ave. That property is known as the Barzizza property, it is just east of OLPH between Scruggs and OLPH. The

applicant is appealing the Planning Commission decision, to the BMA. The Planning Commission had a tie vote on this project. Since the vote did not end up affirmative, it was not approved. The project will be on the September agenda. The Dogwood Estates neighborhood opposes the project which borders the property. The subdivision had representatives attending the last Planning Commission meeting against the project. Originally the project consisted of 14 acres and now it has been cut to 7 acres. Sidney did a survey of the senior facilities.

CONA Report –Billy Brown reported that the last CONA meeting was excellent. Jody Dwyer, City of Germantown Fire Marshal was the guest speaker. The police department had just solved 50 cases of auto thefts. The Mayor reported on single source funding for the City and County schools. She encouraged everyone to talk with their County Commissioner about this. The next CONA meeting will be September 24. CONA had originally planned to have a speaker speak on liability for the neighborhoods however the opportunity came up to have William McKinley, the new Senior VP, CEO and Administrator for Germantown Methodist LeBonheur Hospital. He will be speaking on the future of the hospital and the new 100 bed addition to the hospital. The special events section of the agenda will be devoted to this commission's activities. Joe stated that there will also be a meeting at the home builders association on the single source funding on the same night as this commission meeting.

Environmental Commission Report – Sandra reported that at one of the meetings storm water was discussed. Several residents are using barrels to collect storm water. Joe added that the city is considering implementing a storm water fee which will be similar to the sewer fee. It will be a tiered fee based on square footage of the area that is impervious. There will be a work session with proposed implementation in calendar year 2010. Currently the city is a MS4 Municipality Storm water level 4. Testing is not required at this point in time. It is anticipated that it will be required within the next year or two. Therefore we are looking at the additional requirements from EPA which will be passed through TDEC will put on the municipalities.

Tree Board Report – Sidney reported that he has almost finished his 20 hours of community work for rural forestry. Pam Beasley, Sidney and four others attended a course put on by the University of Tennessee in conjunction with the University of Mississippi. The course consisted of 20 hours of training. All of this will be submitted and if all of the hours are approved, then he will become certified Shelby County Rural Foresters. There was a grant that was given by the State for \$14,000 to upgrade the inventory of trees in the common areas. There is a man from Davey Tree Company that is doing the survey. This will help with maintenance of the trees.

Pam Beasley, Andy Pouncey, Bo Mills and Sidney attended an urban forestry workshop the week of August 3. This workshop was put on the State of Tennessee Division of Forestry, Tennessee Urban Forestry Council, and University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service. It covered pruning and the grants that available.

The Wolf River extension was discussed. The board is rewriting the Germantown Ordinance on tree planting and protection.

Germantown Cares – Hope stated that a subcommittee meeting was held just before the commission meeting and everything seems to be on track. Local churches, youth ministries, and civic groups have been notified. Hope will talk to Mark about food for the follow up party. The commission will be offering food to everyone at Pops in the Park. The commission needs to encourage your neighborhood association or someone in your neighborhood to participate in this program. The commission will be taking donations for the Oral School for the Deaf when people come through for their hot dogs.

Neighborhood Summit – Rebecca reported that this event is coming right along. The Mayor will be the keynote speaker. The topics were changed, Stan will still do the disaster preparedness, and we are thrilled that one of our commission members will be one of the breakout speakers. Paul Bruns and Mike Mabe will be doing the session on landscaping and tree maintenance. The third session was switched to facebook and twitter as the new social networking that neighborhoods can use. Sherrye brought that topic to us and there is a speaker that spoke at the MLGW neighborhood leader's conference on this topic that we have secured. This will be a good topic and bring some people to the conference. A copy of the approved flyer was handed out. There needs to be a couple of corrections made in the sponsors sections. A comment from Rebecca, there has never been a formal comment for the awards and they were given a name on the flyer. Rebecca would like to change the name to "Neighborhood Excellence Awards." Joe said that the flyer will be available to go on the website as soon as the changes are made as well as Germantown TV. Sidney would like to have Kroger and Hicks Convention Services as in-kind sponsors. Sherrye suggested that the Gold sponsors needed to be enlarged on the flyer. Sidney suggested that Kroger and Hicks should be called in-kind donors. Sherrye suggested that the gold sponsors be increased in font size. Larry offered to send it out to his home owner association as soon as it is available in an electronic form. Sherrye stated that posters will be available also. The flyer will be going into the September water bill which will mean that it will go to every home in the city. Rebecca will follow up with Level One to see if they are still interested in a sponsorship. If there are any other sponsors, please get them in as soon as possible. There will be some more jobs for NPC members that night. Someone will need to sit at the registration table. NPC will have a display at the conference. There will be a presentation of the home tour. Someone will need to make sure the table is set up and keep an eye on the table. Larry volunteered to help with the booth. Billy will watch the food. Everyone on the commission will need to be at the conference to help. If possible, please be there at 4 p.m. and plan to stay through clean-up. Hope will bring a bowl for ice and tongs. The nomination form for awards will be out on the website. CONA has been informed two times and a packet will go out with the CONA September mailing. Everyone needs to encourage people to nominate for awards. Sherrye will take bundles of the awards to the CONA meeting. NPC would like a spot on the September agenda for one last pitch for the Summit. Rebecca will send an email the chairman of the commissions to ask for volunteers for judging the awards. There will also be a judge for the NPC commission. The judges will meet the Thursday night of the NPC October meeting. Sherrye suggested that everyone go back to their own neighborhood associations and encourage them to apply for the awards. Sherrye suggested that storm water and landscaping for Tennessee yards as topics for next year if we don't put the information into the book this year. Larry suggested that everyone wear their NPC shirts.-

New Business – Sidney stated that there has been an internally illuminated put in at the gas station on Poplar Ave across the street from Germantown Church. The sign ordinance states that these signs are not permitted. Sidney will prepare a letter for the DRC.

Concerns and or comments – David will be happy to be chairmen of the Home Tour next year.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.