

Neighborhood Preservation Commission  
June 11, 2009  
Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Community Development.

Chairman Rebecca DeRousse was present and presiding.

**In attendance** – Bonnie Blair, Larry Farabee, Sidney Kuehn, Hope Pittman, Stanley Weinrich, Alderman - Mark Billingsley

**Absent** –Sandra Hayne, David Jackson, Beth Jackson, Andrea Vu, Rick Bennett – Planning Commission Liaison

**Also in attendance** – Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services, Billy Brown – CONA,

A quorum was established and minutes were amended as follows: the “t” was left off of budget in Alderman Billingsley report.

**Chairmen’s Comments** – None at this time

## **Reports**

**Alderman Mark Billingsley report** – Alderman Billingsley reported that there was a large turnout at the last BMA meeting. The residents were there to support civic support from the City of Germantown. Alderman Palazzolo made a motion to keep the support the same as last year’s support and it failed for lack of a second. So far it has gone through as an increase over last year.

There was a second reading for the property tax increase slated for 2010.

It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading for AT&T and the coverage of the boxes on the streets. The city has done a great job working with AT&T to get foliage to cover the boxes.

The skate park at Houston Level Park is in great need of repair. In FY09 there is \$100,000 in the budget to repair the park. Staff has some great ideas to get the park repaired cost effectively.

There was approval for \$500,000 to fix some major erosion at lateral E at the Lansdowne lake area. There will be a special session for residents on drainage issues for the city. Everyone was encouraged to come to this meeting. The tentative date for the meeting is the week of July 27.

An exterior sign was approved at the horse show grounds for \$26,000. There was not a consensus on the name “Central Park”. The name on the sign has been deferred. Alderman Billingsley suggested that we ask the residents for a great name. There will be two names on the sign because of the way the land was donated which will be part of the park name. (Germantown Civic Club)

**Neighborhood Services report** – Joe Nunes gave an update on the decorative street signs. The city is in the middle of the second phase of installation. Those neighborhoods will be finished by the end of June. The money is in the budget to complete all of the neighborhoods that are on the wait list.

Forgey Dog Park has opened. You will have to go through an orientation session before you can go to the dog park.

**Planning Commission** – Joe Nunes reported that there were not a lot of projects at this time for the City of Germantown. At the next Planning Commission meeting, July 7 there will be a couple of things that are on the agenda. Chateau Gardens which is the subdivision on Poplar Pike between Oakleigh and Germantown East will be on the agenda for the final plan approval.

The property on the south side of Poplar near OLPH known as the Barzizza's property was turned down by the commission in a 4 to 3 vote for their request for their project. There will be modified plan.

The neighborhood traffic calming policy is also on the agenda. This is not the speed hump policy. There are several options that can be considered for traffic calming. There is a list in the policy of possible options for calming. An individual cannot request a calming; it has to come from the neighborhood.

The question was raised as to the status of the Smart Growth project. Joe explained that the Saddle Creek project will be delayed because of the economic situation. They are going to move forward with the development contract so that when the economic climate improves, the information will be in place.

**CONA Report** – Billy Brown reported that the last CONA meeting was excellent. Patrick and Butch Eder were the presenters. Because of the Federal monies that we will be receiving, there are several great projects in the works. Henry Evans was also a speaker in reference to Industrial Development Bonds. Henry did a great job explaining this issue.

The Mayor spoke in reference to the anticipated push for the consolidation for the City and County governments. Her take on this issue is that it would be bad for our city. It will definitely raise taxes in the city.

Rebecca gave a presentation on the upcoming Germantown Cares and CONA has set aside 10 minutes at the next meeting also for this project.

The police department gave a great report as always.

Sherrye gave an interesting report from Neighborhood Services. Make plans for the fourth Thursday in July for a good presentation from the Fire Department at the next CONA meeting.

**Environmental Commission Report** – Joe reported in Sandra's absence, the commission is looking to do everything they can to promote recycling in the City of Germantown. With the decline of the value of the recyclable materials, the processor cannot pay municipalities for the materials and are now charging.

**Tree Board Report** – Sidney reported that the City received the grant from the State to complete the program of identification of trees and the condition and value. Davey Tree Company will complete the job.

**Germantown Cares** – Hope stated that a subcommittee meeting was held. The committee will encourage all of the scouts, church groups, neighborhoods, etc. to have different projects that the

groups will do on September 19. Some of the ideas for the groups are, to clean up an area, help someone to help work in their yard, run errands, volunteer at hospitals, work as a group on your street to clean it up, collect food for the food bank etc. Then afterwards there will be food and recognition at Pops in the Park in the evening. The committee is in the process of doing the press release and getting packets ready. The commission was encouraged to find a project to get involved with that day. Alderman Billingsley has a contact for hotdogs and Billy Brown said that he could help as well. The committee is working on t-shirts for the day. Information needs to be put in Talk of the Town.

**Unfinished Business** –Leaders Conference – will be held October 22. The decision was made to expand the attendance this year. A possible name change has been discussed. Neighborhood Summit was suggested as a name change. Some of the suggestions included: door prizes, information on neighborhood websites, email to all neighborhoods, signs, banners, flyers, food, making the sessions longer, and awards before the breakout sessions. Topics suggested for breakout sessions: ups and downs to private roads, safety, neighborhood watch, family and personal disaster preparedness, to make people more aware of preparedness, University of Memphis preparedness, traffic calming information, consolidation issues, storm water fee information, liability of Neighborhood Associations. There needs to be a meeting soon so that the speakers and the brochure can be nailed down. The commission members on this subcommittee are Bonnie, Sidney, David, Sandra and Rebecca. Billy will be glad to help while he can during his medical procedures. Stan also offered to help. There will be a meeting on Thursday, June 18 at 4:30 for the subcommittee.

**Concerns and or comments** – Sidney has noticed that now school is out, there are a lot of children around town on the streets riding scooters without helmets. Be cautious!

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.