

Neighborhood Preservation Commission  
February 12, 2009  
Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in Community Development.

Chairman Rebecca DeRousse was present and presiding.

**In attendance** – Bonnie Blair, Larry Farabee, Sandra Hayne, David Jackson, Beth Jackson, Sidney Kuehn, Stanley Weinrich

**Absent** – Andrea Vu, Hope Pittman

**Also in attendance** – Alderman - Mark Billingsley, Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services, Billy Brown - CONA

A quorum was established and minutes were approved as written.

**Chairmen's Comments** – Introduced Bonnie **Blair** – Lived in Germantown East for 13 years, retired from St. Joseph Hospital, where she was the Director, since then she has been active on the National Board of Presbyterian Women. She loves her neighborhood and working with David in Germantown East.

Rebecca met with Mayor Goldsworthy after the last meeting. The Mayor was very appreciative of the work that NPC does. The Mayor asked NPC to come up with ideas to foster neighborhoods, to encourage Night Out and other activities. They discussed the Day of Caring. Also they discussed how to help senior citizens. There is a mailing list though Parks and Rec of Seniors that can be secured.

The Green Book which has all of the Code Compliance information in it needs to be updated. Think of content and the best way to distribute the information.

The Leaders Conference was also discussed.

**Annual Plan**- currently the Home Tour is set for April 26 and David Jackson will be the Chairman for this event. The Neighborhood Leaders Conference which will be held on October 29. The chairman is open for this event.

A sub- committee was put together for The Day of Caring to help the seniors. Those that signed up for this committee are Sandra, David, Beth, Sidney, Hope, Larry, and Andrea.

## **Reports**

**Alderman Mark Billingsley report** – The BMA met February 9, they accepted a donation from the 100 Club of Memphis that provided \$1,500 worth of free smoke detectors to the Germantown Fire Department. If anyone knows of a resident that needs a smoke detector, they need to call the Germantown Fire Department and the department will come and install the detector free of charge.

There was a public hearing on an ordinance for permitting front porches. There was also a public hearing on the automated enforcement ordinance and bringing them in line with the State. The Germantown Parks were also discussed at the meeting. There seems to be a lot of people that come into the Parks and cause problems in the parks and the Park Rangers do not have the legal means of enforcement to issue tickets. This item was deferred for more review. The following item passed on the first reading, "the appointments of chairmen to commission." This proposal would change the practice of the Mayor choosing the prospective Chairmen for the 2010 commissions; the chairmen would be selected by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. This would not apply to the Planning Commission. By State and Federal statute, the Mayor would choose the position. Currently the BMA select the members of the commissions but do not select the Chairmen. This passed 4 to 1 with the dissenting member, Alderman Palazzolo. Alderman Chism sponsored the ordinance. There will be a public meeting on this ordinance. Under the consent agenda, the lease agreement with Germantown Community Theater was deferred. The police dispatch system passed under the consent agenda and purchasing of bulk chemicals passed. There was an add-on to the agenda relative to Reserve Police Officers. Alderman Billingsley sponsored a suggestion to the BMA relative to the Reserve Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Park Rangers. There are 35 individuals that receive a \$1 per year some averaging 300 to 400 hours of volunteer service and save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in enforcement. Those volunteers will now be able to use the Germantown Athletic Club complimentary.

Alderman Billingsley also serves on the Park and Recreation Board and he feels that there will be a difficult problem with the Dog Park. There are problems there with parking on both sides of the road. There are problems with neighbors that live nearby. Because it is so close to the Memphis City limits, it seems that there are a lot of residents from Memphis using the park. Alderman Billingsley has asked the Parks staff to check on this issue. On the date where there was a check, there was a 50/50 split Germantown/Memphis resident's at the park. There will be a meeting Thursday, March 5, at 5 p.m. in the Multi Media Room at the Germantown Athletic Club, where the BMA is considering a Charter change for the Industrial Development Board which would allow for the first time, the issuance of Bonds.

**Neighborhood Services report** – Joe Nunes reported that the on street parking ordinance which is on unfinished business, passed in January and the two known violators have been advised and corrected.

The second phase of the decorative street signs is about to begin. An inspection was done of the 300 posts that have been received. The installer has the posts and is getting ready to do "locates" and installation next week. Germantown East, Germantown Park and Grove Park who had some stop signs that needed to be installed will also be installed. Finishing of Poplar Estates and English Meadows are on the list first to receive decorative street signs.

A proposal has been put together for FY10 to fund the decorative Street program. The decision will be up to the BMA. There are about 11 neighborhoods on the waiting list for signs.


Concerning the move to a 5:30 p.m. meeting time, there is another group that will sometimes meet in the blue room. They have moved to another room for tonight and I will report back if this situation will work ongoing.

Joe also noted that because of the nice weather and then the high winds, Michael's Tree and Loader is a little behind on their yard debris pickup. It should be caught up by the beginning of next week.

**Planning Commission** – Joe Nunes reported that there are two items on the agenda for the upcoming meeting. The first is a review of the policy for traffic calming. Engineering has prepared a policy related to traffic calming. If a neighborhood feels there is excessive speeding on a street then there is now a procedure established to work with the neighborhood. If it is

determined by Engineering that in fact there is a problem then there are steps for different traffic calming devices. It can be as simple as restriping the road or could be adding a chicane, which is an artificial feature creating extra turns in a roadway, used on city streets to slow cars. The staff recommends that speed bumps, humps and rumble strips not be part of the policy. Saddle Creek IV is going forth. The parking garage is being presented for final plan approval.

**CONA Report** – Billy Brown reported that there was a meeting Thursday, January 22 at 7 p.m. Patrick Lawton, the City Administrator was the speaker. He reported on the retreat of the Board of Mayor and Alderman. It was very interesting and there were a lot of comments. David Jackson gave a slide presentation on the 2008 Tour of Remodeled Homes and Landscapes. One of the items on the agenda that has turned out to be one of the highlights of the meeting is Lt. McGee's police report. He is very informative and interesting. It is worth coming to CONA just to hear his report. Lt. McGee gave a report on some of the things that go on during the night shift and how the Germantown Police Department apprehends would be criminals by watching traffic. The next meeting will be held March 26 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. The guest speaker will be David Pickler, Chairman of the Shelby County School Board. He will be talking about the impact of the current economy on Shelby County Schools, the status of the appeal of the Federal Judge's ruling that is pending and the continued impact of the opening of Southwind High School on Germantown High School and Houston High School. He will also give an update on the International Baccalaureate program. Henry Evans will also be in attendance to answer questions about the Industrial Development Board Bonds if he has something to report. If he does not have anything to report at this time then he will not be at the meeting.

**Environmental Commission Report** – Sandra gave a list of the members on the commission. Recycling seems to be down. There are about 100 homes that are empty in Germantown, 13 subdivisions unfinished and 300 lots unfinished. Mulch Day will be held March 14 and Amnesty Dumpster Day will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April, April 18. Bo Mills brought stationary that the Mayor has asked everyone to use. At the bottom of the stationary is a small green tree to consider the environment.  Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail message

There is a website [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) where the City has been selling old equipment and has made good money. A question was asked about the water quality. Joe explained that Public Services has to do a Water Quality Report which will be distributed through the utility bill but he is not sure about the timing.

**Tree Board Report** – Sidney reported that 5 members of the Tree Board will be attending a five week course of which four weeks have been completed. The 5 members include Pam Beasley, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kevin Young which use to be on NPC; Wade Morgan, Chief Planner for the City; and Lee Ann Bryumn, Beautification Commission. At the end of the training the group is committed to each do 20 hours of community work in the area of forestry for the City, then the group will become Shelby County Certified Foresters. On March 6 in conjunction with the Beautification Commission who has donated \$500 worth of trees, will be given out at the Fire Station on Farmington from 8 a.m. until noon or until the trees last. Everyone is invited to come to the Tree Board meeting. They are held the second Tuesday of the month at noon at Parks and Recreation office board room. Lunch is served, if anyone wants to attend, call Denise Griffin to make reservations.

A few years ago, 47% of the City of Bartlett had tree canopies, the most recent study showed that is down to the low 30%. It proves how important it is to plant trees as we build new subdivisions.

**Remodeled Homes and Landscape Tour** – It was suggested that the home tour help a charity. Charities suggested were, MIFA, The Food Bank, and the Ronald McDonald House. David was asked to have a committee meeting and make a decision on the charity. Billy brought up the fact that if you ask for a fee, then it renders the Homeowners insurance invalid. It was suggested that at the first house you take donations. David handed out a spread sheet for the home tour. If anyone knows of anyone that is not on the list or would like to be on the list please contact David. The Mayor has decided not to show her home this year, it isn't ready yet. There are 3 definite at this point. David is in the process of contacting the ones on the list. The homeowners on Windstone Way have a 6200 square foot home. The home is approximately 75 years old and they have completely renovated the home and they will open the entire home for viewing. The Home Tour is Sunday, April 26 from 2 to 5 p.m. and everyone is expected to help that day. The Saturday the day before the tour will be a pre-tour day. Assignments are as follows – flowers (Sidney), signs (Billy), gifts for homeowners (Stan and Joe), directions (Hope), volunteer coordinator (Sandra), and photographs (Sherrye Rhea). The second press release is being developed with donation information. It will go into the paper soon. Once the list is finalized, a third press release will be written and sent to the paper with a list of the homes in the tour.

**Unfinished Business** –

Private Streets– Joe will get the information out to Rebecca next week.

Gated Communities – Sidney stated that in the year 2008 not one crime was committed in his gated community.

**New Business** – None

**Concerns and or comments** – Billy will be out of pocket for a little while starting February 26. Everyone was asked to keep him in their prayers.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.