

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

January 28, 2010

Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Bromley-Foster Ridge, Dogwood Creek South, Duntreath, English Meadows, Forest Hill Estates, Germantown East, Germantown Heights, Germantown Station, Germantown Trails, Grove Park, Hunters Run, Kimbrough Green, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Woods, Mimosa Gardens, Moore Road, Neshoba North, Oakleigh, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Sweet Oaks, The Timbers, Village of Germantown, Val Verde, and Winchester-Forest Hill Estates

Call to Order: Chairman Greg Marcom called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Greg welcomed everyone and recognized first time visitors from English Meadows, Kimbrough Grove, Germantown Trails, Allenby Lakes, Neshoba North and Kimbrough Woods. Aldermen John Drinnon was also in attendance. Greg encouraged everyone to make sure CONA has the correct contact persons and e-mail addresses for all neighborhood associations.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

Guest Speakers: Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, discussed the goals and priorities of Germantown for 2010 and the outlook for the fiscal year 2011. He advised the audience that the worst time for cities and states is often the 18 to 24 months following an economic recession. The Germantown property tax has remained extremely stable, but total income is down. The city has taken measures to maintain the city's Triple A rating by cutting expenses, but that it is a balancing act since costs for absolute essentials go up. He said that the city is dedicated to being an advocate for citizens of Germantown and keeping them informed while providing A+ services. Patrick also spoke of the city's dedication to the maintenance of the infrastructure, examples being Fire Station #4 and work on Farmington Blvd. and Wolf River Blvd. In response to a question about the widening of Germantown Road, Patrick stated that project is State funded and as of yet there is no definite start date.

David Jackson, Tour Chairman of the Neighborhood Preservation Committee, announced that the 2010 Tour of Homes is April 25 from 2 until 5 p.m. This year's tour will feature six or seven homes since it was decided that last year's eight homes were too many. David then showed a Power Point presentation of 2009's homes and a Preview of the 2010 Tour.

Old Business:

Police Department Report: Lt. Mitch Wood presented the Germantown's Police Department's Report. He said that the city had ten burglaries so far in January, half in apartments. These have taken place in both first and second floor apartments and occur mainly between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when no one is home. There have also been ten auto burglaries. He stated that storm doors are a burglary deterrent, and that citizens should not hesitate to call the Police if they see any suspicious activity. Citizens can keep abreast of crime in Germantown by logging in on www.crimereports.com, the Germantown Police Departments FACEBOOK page, or the City of Germantown's web site. The non-emergency police number is 754-7222, and the emergency cell phone contact number is *54.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy spoke about the proposed merger or consolidation of the City of Memphis and Shelby County Governments. She said that a Charter Commission appointed by Mayor Wharton has been meeting every two weeks. She and Patrick Lawton have been attending all meetings, and they have been overwhelming the Commission with their questions and concerns. Consolidation is being touted as creating efficiency, and proponents are no longer saying it saves money because other areas' experiences have shown that it is more costly. Mayor Goldsworthy said that the

major concern that the citizens of Germantown should have is that under consolidation over time everything tends to become lumped under a General Services Tax even though incorporated cities such as Germantown pay for their own fire, police, etc. She said that "Collaborative Effort" as what has been done with ambulance service and sewage treatment, was a better solution than Consolidation. The Charter Commission's Report is due on March 31, the Provisional Charter is to be ready by August 31 and a Referendum on the Charter would be November 2010. Both City of Memphis voters and Shelby County voters outside the city of Memphis would have to approve the Charter in separate elections. Mayor Goldsworthy has stated she would be happy to speak at any Neighborhood Association Meeting to discuss the Consolidation issue.

CONA Special Events Coordinator Report was given by Joe Nunes. He announced that the VESTA Spring Home Show (5 homes) will be at a development at Cordova and Neshoba Road. The city is working with the builders, Vesta, and the neighborhoods to prevent traffic and congestion problems. Planning Report: Joe Nunes reported that a request for gates at Sanders Ridge was denied by the Planning Commission, but the decision can be appealed. At the February meeting a request for a change of setback for the Bradford development and a revision of zoning to allow a Farmers' Market in the center of Germantown will be considered.

Neighborhood Services: Joe Nunes announced that code compliance activity is high, and that they are doing a good job as reflected in Germantown's continued high home values. Citizens were advised to check the city's web site for current information about trash collection during inclement weather. To report downed trees blocking streets call the city but for gas leaks persons should call 911. Joe said that the garbage and refuse contracts have been extended through 2011. Bids have gone out for the remainder of the decorative street signs.

New Business:

Stormwater fee committee: Luci Cromer reported that CONA was invited to participate in this committee representing neighborhoods and Hazel Anderson (also from CONA) represented residential entities. In addition, there were representatives from commercial and tax exempt entities of our community, environmental services and financial advisory commissions, and City staff from administration, community & economic development, finance, and engineering. Since this ordinance is in response to an unfunded mandate by the Federal government and the EPA, the City felt it is more equitable to charge a fee rather than raise taxes. The committee met in December and January, the ordinance was passed by the BMA at the second reading on January 25. The proposed rate structure is \$3.00/month for lots <9999 sq. ft., \$3.25/month for 10000-22000 sq. ft. lots, and \$3.50 for lots >22001 sq. ft. The final reading will be February 8.

Announcements: Susan Stralka, CEO of Baptist Rehabilitation in Germantown, made a request for volunteers and handed out materials.

John Pellicciotti introduced himself as Shelby County's newest County Commissioner who replaced Matt Kuhn. You may contact him with concerns at 901-277-7923 or johnpellicciotti@shelbyco.gov.

Sherrye Rhea presented bags from the City to last year's CONA Board. She announced that eleven people participated in the CERT Program in January, and the February class is at capacity. In case of severe weather, she encouraged Neighborhood Associations to be sure to check on elderly neighbors. The Mayor's Run, a half marathon, will be Sunday morning, March 21, and an Expo will be held at the Athletic Club on March 20. CONA e-mails will keep you advised as to details.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. The next meeting will be March 25, 2010.