

Neighborhood Preservation Commission  
March 11, 2010  
Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in Economic and Community Development, Blue Room.

Chairman Rebecca DeRousse was present and presiding.

**In attendance** – Larry Farabee, Sarah Freeman, Sandra Hayne, David Jackson, Beth Jackson, Jean Oliver, Sidney Kuehn, Alderman - Mark Billingsley, Lisa Parker – Planning Commission Liaison

**Absent** – Andrea Vu

**Also in attendance** – Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services

A quorum was established.

**Minutes** – corrections to minutes – Sandra Hayne was in attendance, there were 1,500 trees given away by the tree board, Landmark bank spelling and Schnucks spelling.

**Chairmen's Comments** – Sarah Freeman has volunteered to be the chairperson for the Neighborhood Summit. We will need a chairman for Germantown Cares. Welcome Lisa Parker, Planning Commission liaison.

## **Reports**

**Alderman Mark Billingsley report** – Alderman Billingsley reported that the board met on Monday, March 8 at 6 p.m. You may now watch the board meetings live on streaming video and they are also archived. You can type in a specific topic and the tape will go to that portion of the respected board meeting. Elizabeth Stagich won the Youth Excellence Award, her mother Dorothy Stagich is very active on city commissions, and Elizabeth was an amazing student at Germantown High School. Linda Riggins was Teacher of the Month from Houston High School. There was a brief presentation by Metropolitan Planning Organization relative to transportation planning. If you are interested in viewing this information please contact Alderman Billingsley. Passed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, an amendment to zoning regulations relative to allowing outdoor sales of vegetables, fruit, produce and baked goods. There has not been a public hearing yet however if anyone is interested in making public comment, you will need to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. There are a lot of residents that have had great ideas on this subject that the board has not thought about. The board needs to be specific about what is allowed. It will be open Saturday only from 7 a.m. until noon. They will have 2 hours before and after for set up and clean up. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please give Alderman Billingsley a call. He is always available.

The question was raised if accompanying music could be put in the ordinance so that every time someone wanted to have music out there they did not have to secure a permit. Alderman Billingsley said it was a great question and he would bring it up as something to consider. Alderman Billingsley also stated that he and Alderman Palazzolo, Alderman Hinely, and Alderman Chism traveled to Nashville for Conservation Week. They were greeted by most of the members of the Shelby County Delegation as well as other Representative friends of Germantown. Everyone was very supportive. Recently Germantown was able to acquire

\$400,000 to obtain Bobby Lanier Park. Over the years the city has been able to get over \$800,000 from the State therefore the group wanted to meet with the group to say thanks.

**Neighborhood Services report** – Joe Nunes gave an update on upcoming events. Mulch Day is March 20 starting at 8 a.m. until it is gone. The Germantown Half Marathon and Mayor’s Cup is Sunday, March 21. With a 7:30 a.m. start and everything should be completed by 10:30 a.m. Good Friday, April 2 is a city holiday and city offices will be closed however trash collection will resume as usual. Everyone was encouraged to look at the city new website. Community Development is getting a lot of calls concerning the railroad crossings. The railroad is coming back to put a final layer of asphalt to smooth the road and it will include restriping. Joe will check with the engineer on the project.

The Vinings – Joe explained the request that the Vinings subdivision has submitted to the Planning Commission for a change in dedicated right of way from 50 feet to 31 feet with a 9 foot pedestrian/utility easement on both sides. This change does not impact the streetscape but does allow the homes to be built closer to the street. He explained that this request has been submitted to the Planning Commission in the past and is in effect in several subdivisions currently. CERT has been scheduled throughout the rest of the year. Please sign up.

**Planning Commission** – Lisa Parker reported the commission met on March 2 and at that meeting the commission revised the age restriction for a resident for a congregate care facility i.e. a nursing. The current age limit was 55 and it is unconstitutional to declare an age limit therefore they cleared it from the ordinance and they revised the ordinance to have one parking space per resident. Hopefully there will be more development in the future.

**CONA Report** –David Jackson reported that the next CONA meeting will be March 25 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The main speaker will be David Pickler discussing Shelby County schools in Germantown and single source funding. He will also discuss the possibility of recreating a special school district. Sherrye Rhea will discuss the new web site and how to navigate the site.

**Environmental Commission Report** – Sandra reported that Bo Mills reported that the Wolf River project, that will connect Kimbrough to Farmington/Wolf River intersection, will go out to bid in a few months. This is a 25 million dollar project and will take approximately three years to complete. Andy Foster reported at the meeting that there is a Volkswagen that has recently been produced that will get 258 miles per gallon of gas. It is a single person vehicle and it will cost approximately \$25,000 and will be released next year.

Air Control – Memphis pollution continues to decline over the past five years.

Earth Hour – It will be celebrated on March 27 and it is encouraged for Germantown to promote this event. Earth Hour will be celebrated worldwide and it involves turning off all electricity and appliances for one hour. Earthhour.org has all of the information.

Also at the meeting, Alderman Mike Palazzolo announced that the city was awarded an energy block grant for part of the energy recovery plan for a total of \$166,000. \$130,000 was allotted for placing LED lights in the traffic signals and \$30,000 was earmarked for future use. There is a possibility of establishing a Green Council.

Amnesty Dumpster Day will be April 17 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**Tree Board Report** – Sidney reported that Arbor Day was March 5 at Germantown Crossing Shopping Center. 1,500 trees were given away. Living Green in Germantown Expo was rained out earlier therefore approximately 12 businesses distributed living green products and were there to answer questions. The Mayor and Alderman Palazzolo were in attendance. Alderman Palazzolo is the liaison for the Beautification Commission, which partnered with the Tree board for this project. All trees were given out by 12 noon. There were 10 different varieties of trees

given away. Included in this group was the willow oak which is the City of Germantown Tree. The state tree is the tulip magnolia which was also given away. Then the group went to Germantown Elementary where they planted a large tree on their grounds. Then they planted a tree at the Village of Germantown. Next the group went to Memphis Oral School for the Deaf and planted a tree. They plan to do it again next year.

Alderman Billingsley commented on how passionate the Tree Board is for their cause and Sidney leads the way for them. He would like to look at expanding the role of the Tree Board and giving them more authority to review what is going on with the planning of Germantown. Right now the Tree Board is trying to save approximately 300 to 400 years worth of tree growth in Old Germantown. Sidney mentioned that he read an article on 8 surprising places to retire. The number one place was Germantown. Half of the article was about the trees and the fact that we are Tree City USA.

**Home Tour** – David gave an update on the tour. There has been two houses back out this week therefore there are only 2 houses and one club house in the tour at this time. Sherrye and David have been on the phone trying to find homes. He is waiting to hear from a few homes. Driving directions will be done by April 10. Joe was asked to get the gifts for the homeowners and Sandra will secure all of the volunteers. Again this year there will be a pre-view tour on Saturday at 2 p.m. The tour will end at the Aintree Farms Club House with wine and cheese. Sidney will secure the flowers for the homes.

Next year there are several historical homes committed for the tour.

**Unfinished Business** – Sidney talked to the railroad and stopped them from putting down 36 inch pipe for drainage that would drain into his neighborhood. They are putting down 24 inch pipe instead.

**New Business** – none

**Concerns and or comments** – David passed out pictures of swing sets in the front yards of a few homes in Germantown. He feels like they are an eye sore. Joe explained that they are not against City code.

There are several mail boxes throughout the city that are in need of repair.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.