

Neighborhood Preservation Commission

April 8, 2010

Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, April 8, 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, Sidney Kuehn, Andrea Vu, Alderman - Mark Billingsley, Lisa Parker – Planning Commission Liaison

Absent – Jean Oliver

Also in attendance – Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services

A quorum was established.

Minutes – corrections to minutes – Under CONA report – change “recreate a special school district” to “create a special school district”. Under Planning Commission add the word home after - congregate care facility i.e. a nursing “home”. Under Neighborhood Services - change the wording to “New City Website.” Under Tree Board Report - change to “We Are A Tree City USA.” Under New Business – change to “they are replacing one 24 inch pipe with another 24 inch pipe”.

Chairmen’s Comments – The focus tonight needs to be on the Home Tour. In May the commission will start to work on the Germantown Cares project. A Chairman is still needed for this event. Recruitment will start soon if there are no volunteers. Work on the Neighborhood Summit will start soon and Sarah Freeman has volunteered to chair this event.

Reports

Alderman Mark Billingsley Report – Alderman Billingsley reported that at the last BMA meeting a proclamation was given to promote GOOGLE. The Telecommunications Commission did a great job making an application for a GOOGLE location. However, Germantown is no longer in the running; Memphis is still in the running for the opportunity. There was a valiant effort in the short time they had to put it together. The great highlight for Germantown is the playground demonstration project that will be built in Riverdale Park by Baptist Healthcare Foundation, Baptist Rehab, PlayCore and the City of Germantown. The project will be amazing. Baptist Healthcare Foundation and Baptist Rehab are donating \$150,000.00 and PlayCore will be donating \$150,000.00 in kind. There are great opportunities for those that would like to volunteer in preparation of the project. There has already been a half day planning session. This will be a community project. It will take a half day to erect and there is a job for everyone to volunteer. Sarah asked about the timing of the opening of the new Riverdale playground. Rebecca replied that it will be around the time school starts in August which will be a soft opening. There will be a grand opening on Arbor Day next year. They will try to get some national coverage. This will be a prototype for the nation. Sarah stated that Neshoba North would like to get involved in this project.

The third and final reading passed for the ordinance concerning a farmers market. A change was made to add jellies and honey to be in line with the other farmers markets. It should be operational as soon as produce starts coming out of the ground.

The establishment of a Great Hall Commission passed on the first reading. The Athletic Club and the Great Hall need two different commissions.

The contract was extended for the automated enforcement lights. There is an effort in Nashville to not allow automated enforcement lights for 18 to 24 months. The city wanted to be able to extend their contract if this passed.

An item added on to the end of the agenda was to study the prospect of the Tree Board having more authority relative to cutting down trees in the City. Sidney will work with the staff on this item.

The next BMA meeting will be Monday, April 12 at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Center, Council Chambers. Items on the agenda – Target wants to sell beer, the city will save \$25,000 a year by going with a new vendor for 3rd party administrator insurance reimbursements. The city will renew its contract with Methodist Healthcare for the city's insurance.

There will be a review for a professional services agreement to look at putting money toward the design of adding additional parking for the Great Hall.

Everyone was encouraged to come to the BMA meetings and if you are not able to, watch it on the new City Website.

Neighborhood Services Report – Joe Nunes added that for the next BMA meeting, the decorative street sign agreement for fabrication and installations will also be on the agenda. The remaining neighborhoods on the wait list will be installed starting this summer and ending in the fall. All of the neighborhoods that are interested in adding the decorative street signs to their neighborhood will be fulfilled after this final installment. The cost for each street sign is \$747.00 and the neighborhood share is \$373.50. The stop signs are \$545.00 per sign which the city will pay 100% of the cost and the neighborhoods do not share in that cost. The question was asked as to who will take care of the maintenance of the signs i.e. painting when they start to chip. Joe stated that Public Services will take care of the maintenance. The vendor for this phase is Apex Iron Works. They were in the installer of the last phase. They did not bid on the fabrication last time however they did bid on both this phase and this contractor will be recommended to the BMA.

The railroad crossings are being worked. The (almost) final coat will be down by Friday. They will be coming back on Monday to put the final finishing touches on.

The CERT class scheduled for the coming weekend was cancelled because there were only nine people signed up and unfortunately that is not enough to hold a class. Please sign up if you haven't taken the class.

Amnesty Dumpster Day will be April 17. If you have any electronics or computers bring them out along with other materials not regularly picked up by All Star on Saturday between 7:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

There will be a screening of a film at Malco on April 22 that will be part of the Memphis Film Festival which is called Germantown Hero's. It is the story of fire fighters that were Germantown High School students and volunteer firemen. It shows some of our current firemen when they were in high school. Alderman Billingsley encouraged everyone to go and see it.

There is a citizen's police academy coming up on Thursday evenings starting April 29 through June 10.

Tennessee Shakespeare, the last production of Julius Cesar, is this weekend. This is an all female cast and it takes place at the Municipal Center in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission – Lisa Parker reported the commission met last Tuesday and had two items on the agenda. First on the agenda was The Vinnings Subdivision which is on the north side of Winchester Road, east of Forest Hill-Irene. This subdivision has 10 houses in construction at this time. They are requesting an amendment to the final plat to reduce the existing 50 feet right of way to 31 feet. This is not unusual for these subdivisions; it gives them the opportunity to build a larger home without destroying the look of the front. As the smaller compact subdivisions are being built you will often receive this request. This recommendation was approved. Also, they wanted open space on one of the lots and this was approved. Second item was an amendment to the storm water management pollution control section. When the BMA approved it, they inadvertently put it in zoning when it should have been in utilities; therefore this was basically a housekeeping issue.

CONA Report –David Jackson reported that CONA met on March 25 and the guest speaker was David Pickler. He gave a report on the state of Shelby County Schools. He shared that a recent law suit had been filed against Shelby County. Sherrye Rhea gave a 15 minute overview on how to navigate the new city website. The normal reports were given. David gave a report on the home tour. Next month the meeting will be May 27 and Patrick Lawton will be talking about the budget and CIP.

Environmental Commission Report – Sandra reported that she was unable to attend the meeting however there were a few things she left off last month's reports. Well number 5 at Southern failed last year and Public Services has had to do some repairs and now they are digging a new well. Well number 1 at Johnson Road has electrical problems therefore they are working on it as well as well number 3 on Southern Ave.

This is the 40th anniversary for Earth Day which will be held the week prior to April 25.

Tree Board Report – Sidney reported that the BMA has approved a recommendation from the Tree Board to get with the staff to look at the process in regards to the cutting down of historical trees throughout the city. This fits in well with the plans of the Tree Board. They are currently rewriting the tree ordinance to present to the BMA.

It is time to mulch your trees however do not put the mulch close to the bark (tree trunk) because of insects.

Home Tour – David gave an update on the tour. Two additional sites have been secured this week. David handed out an overview of the tour. There are 3 complete homes which will take 30 minutes to view. Dawn Goods one story home which is in Poplar Estates has torn down a wall and made the dining room part of the kitchen. She turned the living room into the dining room. She has ripped out all of the carpet and stained and scored the concrete. The entire 2 story Davis home will be shown. The home is close to the intersection of Poplar Pike and Hacks Cross Road. The homeowner has done most of the tile and hardwood work. They have added a sunroom and deck. There is a media room upstairs. The Clough home was added this week thanks to Sidney. This home is a 1 story on Bobwood which is close to Birnam Woods. They have added a master bedroom and bath, a sunroom, converted a section of their home to a mother-in-law suite which can be closed off to the rest of the home. This home was originally 1,700 square feet and they have increased it to 2,700 square feet. This is a great home. There will be one landscape home; Paul Bruns which owns Good Winds Nursery, parent's home on Johnson Road will end the tour. The club house at Aintree Farms will also be on the tour. Sandra will need to get 11 volunteers. Dawn Good and Sidney will have their own volunteers. There is a possibility that the Bruns will not need volunteers. The preview will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The group will meet at Dawn Goods home. Sidney will take care of the 5 sets of flowers. The flowers, gifts, cones, name tags, guest registry and anything else will be delivered on Saturday. The balloons will be delivered on Sunday. Joe will need to get 12 cones and 5 gifts. Hope Pittman has offered to do the driving directions. Sherrye will do the name tags, story boards and photos. Sandra will once again provide the balloons. This is a rain or shine event.

Unfinished Business – In reference to swing sets in the front yard, Joe reported that swing sets would not be prohibited in the front yard under section 23- 236 which refers to outdoor accessory structures. It excludes satellite receiving antennas, basketball goals, temporary lawn game apparatus, which would include swing sets, decorative items, lawn furniture, and bird houses.

New Business – Joe will report on outside fireplaces at the next meeting.

Concerns and or comments – none

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.