

## YOUTH COMMISSION

November 12, 2009

The regularly scheduled Youth Commission meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, November 12 and met at the Administration Conference Room at City Hall.

PRESENT:	Matthew Berry	ABSENT:	Elizabeth Stagich
	Shelby Glass		Alderman Mike Palazzolo
	Jonathan Green		
	Hannah Griffiths		
	Julia Haines		
	Sara Kim		
	Mary Aubrey Landrum		
	Serenity Martin		
	Anne Mischke		
	Priyanka Moolchandani		
	Eric Ruleman		
	Pam Beasley/Denise Griffin		

GUEST: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy

The Mayor opened the meeting with a brief history of the beginning of the Germantown Youth Commission. The Commission was created by the Board of Mayor and Alderman to give students a voice in the city. Students that embraced scholarship and sought out leadership opportunities were selected.

The Mayor stated that the City is continually taking into consideration how young people prepare themselves for adulthood, how they think about their futures, where do they see themselves at the age of 25. Trends are constantly changing and the Board of Mayor and Alderman try to stay abreast of how the City can meet the needs that currently exist.

The Mayor asked for input:

- Mary Aubrey Landrum – plans to attend medical school to become a plastic surgeon. She plans to remain in Germantown.
- Anne Mischke – plans to attend veterinarian school and would like to live out in the country because she loves animals.
- Shelby Glass – plans to attend medical school and would like to live in the suburbs of a larger city.
- Hannah Griffiths – plans to attend veterinarian school and would like to stay in Germantown.
- Jonathan Green – plans to attend medical school to become an orthopedic surgeon. He loves golf and would like to live in East Tennessee, possibly near the Carolina's.
- Matthew Berry – plans to be a minister and will go wherever God leads.
- Priyanka Moolchandani – plans to attend medical school. Her father is a doctor and she would like to follow in his footsteps to help people. She would like to live in California.
- Sara Kim – plans to go into international studies and hopes to spend a tour with the Peace Corp/United Nations and would like to live abroad.

- Eric Ruleman – plans to study law or engineering and would like to live abroad.
- Serenity Martin – plans to study journalism or fashion and would like to live in a big city possibly New York.

The Mayor shared some historical information on Germantown. The City of Germantown began to grow in the late 60s. The city fathers decided early that the city would primarily be comprised of houses and just enough stores to meet the needs of the residents. Kmart met with city fathers and were told that they could not come to Germantown but eventually realized that commerce was needed because homeowners would have to cover costs for running the city. Commerce was strategically placed on the outside corners of the city. This was great because outsiders would come to the “edge” of Germantown to shop and then return to their homes without ever really entering into Germantown, which was a good idea because they could still maintain the “small city” feel. The challenge has been how to be modern and on the leading edge and shared some of the details of the Smart Growth plan to expand and develop a more modern city.

The Mayor asked, “What is lacking? Why do the young people leave?”

- Julia Haines – “natural tendency to move on”
- Eric Ruleman – “desire to see the world after living in the same place since birth”

The Mayor asked, “How strongly does the family influence where you live?”

- Jonathan Green – “when a grandchild moves, the grandparents usually follow”
- Shelby Glass – “little sisters would like to leave and return”

The Mayor stated that in the past kids brought their families home. Now, parents move to be near their kids.

The Mayor asked, “What do you think about having cameras on the lights?”

- Anne Mischke – “I believe the city has the right to place them on public property but not on private property.”

The Mayor agreed and stated that it has reduced accidents by 30%. Julia asked where the money made from the tickets goes to. The Mayor reported that the City’s ordinance states that net proceeds after camera costs goes toward safety education in the schools.

Pam asked, “What are your fondest memories of Germantown?”

- Julia Haines – “Germantown Methodist Church & the Commissary”
- Jonathan Green – “Soccer, golf, Cameron-Brown Park, Baseball”
- Matthew Perry – “driving and walking around”
- Priyanka Moolchandani – “the neighborhood”
- Sara Kim – “events such as Race for the Cure”
- Eric Ruleman – “the Christmas lights”
- Serenity Martin – “the intimate feel of the community”
- Anne Mischke – “where I boarded my horse”
- Hannah Griffiths – “walking in the woods”