

Neighborhood Preservation Commission
August 12, 2010
Minutes

A meeting of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission was held on Thursday, August 12, 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, Sidney Kuehn, Alderman - Mark Billingsley, Lisa Parker – Planning Commission Liaison

Absent – Beth Jackson, Jean Oliver, Andrea Vu

Also in attendance – Joe Nunes– Neighborhood Services, Sherrye Rhea – Neighborhood Coordinator

A quorum was established.

Minutes – The minutes were approved with one correction. Under the Germantown Cares section, Sandra Hayne needs to be added on the sub-committee.

Chairmen's Comments – Beth Jackson and Jean Oliver, both for different reasons, are resigning from the commission. Both will be greatly missed. Beth has been a member of the commission for 2 years and this was Jean's first year. There are now 7 commission members. Commission members can be appointed mid-term. Sherrye Rhea stated that Dawn Good from the Home Tour was interested in being a part of the commission. Sarah Freeman suggested Laura Hendrix. Sarah will contact Ms. Hendrix and will get an application from Sherrye if she needs one. Alderman Billingsley suggested that applications go out as soon as possible. The next BMA meeting is August 23. If applications are turned in before the next BMA meeting we could put it as an "add on" the agenda.

Reports

Alderman Mark Billingsley Report – Alderman Billingsley stated that there was a BMA meeting Monday, August 9. A beer permit was approved for Noodles Asian Bistro which is located by the Frame Shop and Panera Bread.

Also, the BMA approved an amendment to Storm Water Management Pollution Ordinance which was to add a board in the event there is a conflict with the storm water fee there will be a group that will look at the issue. Also approved was a resolution relative to digital gas signs. It allows the Mayor to negotiate with BP/Circle K and Schnucks. The BMA has taken a position against digital L.E.D. gas signs. They would like to set down with both groups and come to some kind of agreement. The cost of the signs initially was proposed to be up to almost \$100,000.

The Stephanie Hill/Sullivan agreement was approved at the last BMA meeting. Nothing will be disclosed until it becomes a matter of public record.

The city is pursuing the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award as a Municipality. There is only one municipality in the country, Coral Springs, FL that has a Malcolm Baldrige Award. It attests to the quality of services and the staff. It covers everything from human resource issues to green initiatives, excellence across the board. With this award comes a few expenses however in the long run, the dollars will come right back to Germantown. The BMA approved \$25,000 for training of 108 of the managers and supervisors for employment development plans training. They are looking for performance based personnel evaluation. They must hit certain bench marks. It is normal in the corporate world. Malcolm Baldrige Award has to be submitted by April. The city is already doing a lot of excellent things. We are ahead of the curve however there are some things that need to be worked on. If we don't receive the award, we will have done some great things for the city. Rebecca added that the city

needs to be commended for applying for the Malcolm Baldrige Award. Alderman Billingsley added that the Mayor and City Administrator for Coral Springs, FL have offered work with our staff to help achieve this award.

The Wolf River Expansion project has been going on for 20 plus years and we are finally going to be able to see it finished. Germantown filed a condemnation lawsuit against Walid Sakaan on Aug. 12. The city offered Sakaan \$208,156 for 7.5 acres and has placed the money in an escrow account with Circuit Court.

Sidney Kuehn asked Alderman Billingsley to explain the information on the new public assembly area.

Alderman Billingsley explained that the public assembly area came in significantly over budget. The BMA voted to send it back for reevaluation. The Park Commission has now been charged with incorporating this project into the master plan. Discussions will be happening at Parks and Rec. There will be a walking tour on August 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. of the property.

Sara Freeman asked a question concerning the Storm Water Board in terms of its responsibility. She wanted to know if her neighbor had a problem with drainage, is this the board they should go to. Alderman Billingsley explained that the purpose of the Storm Water Hearing Board is to hear appeals relative to damage assessment civil penalties and or storm water user fees in connections with management ordinance. The issues of drainage should go to city staff. Joe added that the primary purpose of the board is to look at fees and it would not affect neighborhoods or residents because the fees are not significantly different. The anticipation is that commercial and nonprofit properties may want to appeal.

Sara Freeman also asked if there was currently a law suit with Schnucks. Alderman Billingsley explained that to his knowledge there is no law suit. The city has received a letter explaining that Schnucks is aware of the process and they would like to keep their sign up. Other information on digital signs was discussed. The board is 4 to 1 on this issue.

The next BMA meeting will be on August 23 at 6 p.m.

Neighborhood Services Report – Joe Nunes deferred his report because the main items are coming up on other reports.

Planning Commission – Lisa Parker reported that there was meeting held on August 3 in which there was only one item on the agenda, Dogwood Ridge Senior Living Facility PUD which is on the south side of Poplar, east of Kimbrough and west of Scruggs. The PUD requested the final site plan approval and after much discussion in regards to the four retaining walls, retention ponds, etc. the site plan was approved. Alderman Billingsley asked Ms. Parker the location of the retaining walls. She explained that the largest one will be in the back of the property, the southern area. There are 3 more and that's because of the topography. The commission wanted to make sure that the retaining walls were clear cut with little fill in the back. If these retaining walls fail, they would fall on the PUD property. There is a 25 foot landscape buffer to the south. Therefore the neighbors in the rear will not be able to see the PUD. They are clear cutting the property leaving only 7 trees. The Planning Commission asked the PUD to have a relationship with OLPH however OLPH was not interested.

CONA Report –David Jackson reported that CONA met on Thursday, July 22 and the speaker was John Simi which gave a talk on “Your child’s digital foot print”, computer safely with kids. The next meeting will be held September 23. It will be a town hall meeting, a little different from the regular meeting. It will be interesting for a lot of people to come, please invite your neighbors. The title of the program will be City-County Consolidation, why it is not good for Germantown. Sherrye Rhea added that Leadership Germantown will be having a program at Germantown Church of Christ with people from both sides of the issues on August 30. Rebuild Government stated today that they backed the new Charter according to Alderman Billingsley. The Mayor is available to speak at any neighborhood meeting regarding Consolidation.

Environmental Commission Report – Sandra Hayne reported she was not at the last meeting however Joe Nunes said he is the one that gave a presentation on getting input from the Environmental Commission as they move forward on the solid waste disposal bid process. The presentation looked at the difference between back door versus curb side collection, what options are there for household trash, what are the options for recycling, yard debris. The main question was in reference to tree debris. Does the city try to limit the amount the city is

responsible for collecting in order to keep the budget down? Right now we do unlimited amount of pickup of tree debris that is resident generated. The same with construction debris that is resident generated. We are looking at to what extent is the city responsible for extra ordinary debris collection. Joe will be looking at how appliances can be recycled in the next bid. We do scrap metal recycling at Amnesty day which will be coming up September 18. Larry asked the question if the rule still applied that if a resident could get the trash to the street then the city would pick it up? Joe explained that to a certain extent that is a rule of thumb however there are weight limitations. If it is too heavy for the crew on the truck then the household claw should pick it up. We do advise residents to call us if they have something out at the street that is heavy so that we can contact the vendor however the vendor is supposed to notify their dispatch if there is something at the street that they cannot collect.

MLGW came to the library and did a presentation on being energy efficient. There was a kit that was given away that contained light bulbs, caulk, caulk gun, etc.

Tree Board Report – Sidney reported that George Brogdon has been involved with the project of parking at the Great Hall. He has been asked to come up with a plan to increase the number of parking spots at that facility. As a result of that, Mr. Brogdon asked the tree board to look at the preliminary plans that will be presented to the BMA. The plan will reduce the entrance to the Great Hall from Germantown Road from an ingress and egress to one entrance. As a result of this plan, a large number (20) of very large trees will be removed. After looking at the plan the Tree Board was able to save 9 of the 20 trees. There was a certified Arborist that examined the trees. The plan will be able to increase the canopy of the parking area which will make it cooler. The Tree Board was pleased that they were asked to be a part of the plan. The plan will give the Great Hall 69 extra parking spaces. Alderman Billingsley added that the cost would be approximately \$300,000.

Neighborhood Summit – Sarah reported that she met with Sherrye and Joe and was brought up to speed on the activities that had taken place while she was away. She listened carefully of the ideas that were presented at the last meeting. The main issue is what to do with the last slot on the program and there needs to be a subcommittee meeting to nail down the program. Chick-Fil-A is an approved vendor for food. It has also been approved for restaurants to offer samples at their booth. There will be a change in the structure of the program. The attendee does not have to choose between programs this year; they will be able to attend all of the sessions. This option also opens up another room. Artists can come and show their works in the extra room. Vincent Carter, the Shelby County Archivist, has agreed to come and discuss the history of Germantown and to show how this history has been collected and is available through the Registrar's site. He is interested in plantations along the Wolf River in antebellum times which would prove to be interesting. Traffic along the Wolf River is one of the reasons we are in Germantown. He will be talking about the physical history of Germantown and use of space. He is a county employee and he cannot charge a fee. Wolf River Blvd extension will be the present presentation. The capstone would be the head of Memphis Heritage, June West. She is very knowledgeable and has been doing it for years. She will know how to preserve their home. June West has not been confirmed. Sarah would like the city to look at some the old pictures of Germantown and look at getting them restored and sell. Other ideas for breakout sessions were offered. Alderman Billingsley said that he loved the outside of the box ideas that are being offered this year. The Historical Commission is going to be asked to work with this project. Alderman Billingsley suggested that we ask residents to bring historical items to share. He also suggested that Sarah contact the Home Builders Association, they may want to help with the Summit. They can donate empty paint buckets and such to put give away items in. The deadline that we set for ourselves for getting sponsors is the end of August. The subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, August 19 in the blue room at 5:30 p.m.

Germantown Cares - The subcommittee needs to meet Monday, August 16 at 4 p.m. and anyone that would like to be a part of this program, please attend. Alderman Billingsley suggested that all of the people that came to the playground build will be good to put on the list for Germantown Cares.

International Property Code – Joe stated that the subcommittee met and reviewed the first chapters of the code. They will schedule a meeting in September for the second part of the chapters. He explained that Shelby

County is looking to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code. Joe decided that if Shelby County is going to make some revisions then the City of Germantown should look into this code and make suggestions also.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business - None

Concerns and or comments – Sherrye stated that the plant of the new playground at Riverdale, Everybody’s Tree House was amazing. The designer said that he had never seen a group of people work like that. There was over 200 cubic yards of mulch that was spread in less than 3 hours. Baptist Rehab did a great job. Everyone should go to the playground to experience it. Baptist Rehab will be taking some of their children over there to do physical therapy. Alderman Billingsley also stated that Bo Mills and his staff did a great job also. Sarah suggested that a thank you letter be sent to Baptist Rehab and Parks. Alderman Billingsley said he would talk to the Mayor about it and push it with the city.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.