

HISTORIC COMMISSION
May 25, 2010

The regular meeting of the Germantown Historic Commission was held on Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Parks and Recreation, 2276 West Street.

PRESENT:	Louise Bagby	ABSENT:	George Browder
	Joy Cook		Lucie Calvin
	Elaine Dudley		Kay Fleming
	Jim McGehee		Florence Krug
	Roma Sailors		Carole Hinely, Alderman
	Barbara Schneider		
	Warren Travis		

Guests:

APPROVAL OF APRIL 27, 2010 MINUTES

The Chairman requested that the following names be added to the “completed” list of oral history sessions:

- Dub Nance
- Otto Lyons
- Sue Williams
- Bobby Lanier

It was moved by Roma, seconded by Elaine to approve the April 27, 2010 minutes as amended. Motion approved.

JOHN GRAY HOUSE

The Chairman provided an update for the house and mentioned that Alderman Carole Hinely really got the ball rolling at the last Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting. As a result, Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, suggested that the Historic Commission be contacted for an on-site review. Lela Garlington with the Germantown News contacted Louise and they met at the house with a photographer last week. The Chairman provided both the history of the house and its current condition. The article should come out soon and hopefully will generate some interest in preserving the building.

The Chairman reported that the roof is only 21 years old and it’s much deteriorated. Rain is coming in and ruining the recently plastered walls. Debris is also coming in. Louise shared her feeling that the big question in some of the Aldermen’s minds is, if you spend all this money, what are you going to do with it? It doesn’t have restroom facilities for groups to meet there. There is really no need for the building and it’s going to be costly to renovate it.

HERITAGE DAY

The following items were added to the current “Guests confirmed” list provided in last months meeting: (***bold & italicized***) :

- Guests confirmed:
 - Billie Martin – story teller
 - Maggie Naylor – calligraphy
 - Margaret Smith – quilter
 - Margaret Williams – tatting
 - Sid Witherington – Civil War relics
 - Steve Gibson – kettle cooking
 - Jim McGehee & John Bagby – woodworking
 - ***Susan Askew – heritage plants***
 - ***Jonathan Frase – Blue Grass band (\$250)***

Possibilities:

The Chairman stated that at the Regional History and Genealogy Center, there is a display at the entrance to the facility from the state historical society on Francis Wright. The city has it on loan until September 30th and then it will be returned to the state. It’s a fairly large display case with items and pictures on the wall. Louise suggested it would be great to have it at the John Gray house for Heritage Day but is concerned about relocating the display case and damaging some of the items. Roma suggested that since there is already a display care in the house, some of the items could be shown without moving everything. Joy spoke her concern about the tours and the already tight space. It was suggested that items be moved from the parlor and the display placed in the parlor. Louise will discuss the possibility with them. Denise was asked if city crews could assist with relocating everything. She agreed to check on it.

Publicity:

The Chairman wants to make sure that the event receives good publicity and would like to utilize Germantown High School TV and request an opportunity to appear on one of their spots to promote the event. Louise asked a Commission member to take the lead. Other avenues such as the Mayor’s show, or the Chamber of Commerce were suggested. Denise suggested that Chanel 19 would be an option. Angela Buckley and/or Stacey Ewell at City Hall would be the ones to talk to about that.

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Three oral DVD’s have been added to the collection at the Regional History and Genealogy Center. Roma shared that she, Louise, and Jim visited Adelaide Deen’s home and were able to take a picture of a spoon that had been saved during the Civil War. The story was that her great-grandfather asked the Union soldiers who were confiscating many valuable items from their home if they would leave one silver spoon for his daughter (Adelaide’s grandmother) who was ill and needed the spoon to take her medicine. Roma stated that she also got a picture of Adelaide with the spoon.

HISTORIC REMODELED HOMES TOUR

The Chairman reported that Sherrye Rhea, Neighborhood Coordinator for the City of Germantown would like to work in collaboration with the Historic Commission on their annual tour of remodeled homes. Next spring, it will be listed as Historic Remodeled Homes. The Gerald Wilson house at the corner of Hacks Cross and Poplar Pike (at the railroad tracks) is one of the homes on the list. The Nuremburg home, which is the oldest home in Germantown, is another home on the list and they are trying to get one more. Louise expressed her opinion that the Braezille house would be a great addition. Roma suggested the Mark Davis home. The Chairman asked the Commission if they were interested. Everyone expressed excitement for the project.

At the close of the meeting, Roma presented the Chairman with a framed picture of Lafayette Ragsdale prints. Louise expressed her surprises elation at receiving such a special gift from the Commission.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.