

HISTORIC COMMISSION
July 27, 2010

The regular meeting of the Germantown Historic Commission was held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Parks and Recreation, 2276 West Street.

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

Guests:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 22, 2010

The Chairman stated that Sylvester Lewis was a wonderful guest at the June meeting. However, it still remains unclear as to the accuracy of some of the historical background for the John Gray house. Mr. Lewis provided a very concise argument against statements made by his cousin, Ernest Lacey.

George stated that on page one, last paragraph, first bullet under the "South side of marker" statement, that Sylvester contested the statement that "Free Joe" Harris was the church's first minister. The Chairman agreed but said that he was called to preach. However, this statement was not clarified either.

It was moved by George, seconded by Roma to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

HERITAGE DAY / PUBLICITY

Roma suggested that the information presented by Sylvester Lewis at the June meeting stand as is in regards to the John Gray house tours for Heritage Day until the issue in question can be further researched. All agreed. The Chairman requested that tours be short because there will be line waiting.

Publicity

Roma suggested that instead of an oral history presentation, the vendors for the event such as Steve Gibson (kettle cooking), Maggie Naylor (calligraphy) and some of the others could be interviewed, gathering a brief excerpt from each to submit to the Germantown High School TV. Several commission members agreed that this would be a great idea.

Jim will contact Ted Beasley with the Germantown High School TV about publicity for the event. Roma stated that she will provide a CD with pictures from past events and information in writing about this year's event. Carole suggested putting it on the City's website.

Other Details

Roma informed the Commission that the "spinning wheel" guest is closing her business and moving to California with her husband, who was hired for a job there so she will be unable to participate but Suzie Moskal who was at the event last year has her own spinning wheel and has agreed to participate. Roma stated that all of the guests are excited about the event.

The only item not confirmed as of today's date is music. The gentleman's name is Jonathan Frase. He has a blue grass band and has requested \$200. Roma asked for his contact information. Information will be forwarded to her. The Commission agreed to his terms.

The Chairman asked Denise to request permission from the Design Review Commission for signs, one to be placed at the entrance to the Great Hall and one to be placed at the entrance to Municipal Park on Exeter Road. The signs should be generic so that they can be used each year and should read:

Heritage Day
Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m.
John Gray House
1900 S. Germantown Road

Signs should be in place one week prior to the event.

EXPLORATION OF DOGWOOD ROAD

The Chairman reported that she and George went exploring and came upon something she had never seen. George, who has been working to compile historical data for the Germantown Civil War document is currently working to reconstruct the streets and on one particular day, he noted a road that runs off of Poplar Pike to about one block east of Germantown Road. He asked both the Hughes and Harry Cloyes about the road and Harry told George where to find it. It turned out to be a sunken road and is still there today. The road is located between Brice Antiques and Holland Studios. If you go between the antique shop and the photography studio, the sunken road is underneath the little wooden bridge and runs down to the railroad track, through Public Services. It was suggested that if he went to the property behind Public Services, he might be able to locate an extended portion of the road so he checked it out but that connected to, what is today, Dogwood and then extended to, what is today, Forest Hill-Irene and is also known as Macon-Arlington Road.

Carole stated that the City is buying the Ethel Lane property, east of the Animal Shelter and asked if the sunken road went back to that property. The Chairman reported that the property belonged to Joe Lane, the oldest Lane child and Ethel, his wife died recently. George said it does go back to that area but it's worn down and would probably be very difficult to locate. Carole suggested that when the City tears down the house, George designate some time before reconstruction begins to dig around a bit to see what he can find of the sunken road.

COLLIERVILLE MUSEUM

The Chairman reported that Collierville now has a museum. The white church was donated by the Morton family but the Town came up with \$400,000 to restore it and it will be a wonderful museum. Carole stated that the majority of the renovations are complete with the exception of replacing the air-conditioning and a few other items. The Chairman added that in the Museum, they have installed blown up pictures that draw your eye immediately as you enter the town. The interior of the church is beautiful. The walls and floors have been restored to its original beauty. They plan to use the church as the town's Visitor Center, museum, and a rental facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.