

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

January 27, 2011

Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Bavarian Village, Bromley-Foster Ridge, Dogwood Grove, Forest Hill Estates, Germantown Heights, Germantown Trails, Grove Park, Mimosa Gardens, Neshoba North, Oakleigh III, Riverchase, Village at Germantown, and Forest Hill Estates.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman, Luci Cromer called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Luci announced that, in accordance with CONA by-laws, Billy Brown has been elected by unanimous vote of the Executive Committee to replace Greg Marcom as Chairman of CONA through November 2011. As of his election to the Germantown Board of Aldermen, Greg is no longer eligible to serve as CONA Chairman. First time attendees from Neshoba North and Alderman John Drinnon were recognized.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 16, 2010 Meeting were approved as written.

Guest Speakers: Patrick Lawton, City Administrator for the City of Germantown, presented a power point overview of the January Retreat of Germantown's Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The purpose of the retreat is to make plans and update long range issues as they relate to the Vision 2020 Plan created in 2005. Because of the economic recession last year's retreat stressed fiscal responsibility and economic soundness, but this year the board returned to Vision 2020. He made available a handout showing a pyramid depicting the outcome of the retreat. At the top of the pyramid is the Vision 2020 our desired state. Beneath that is Sustainability in three areas, Economic, Environmental and Social. Beneath each of these areas are key indicators that can be tracked. Examples are Economic: AAA bond rating, property values, etc.; Environmental: CO2 emissions, water quality Index, etc.; Social: crime rate, home ownership, results of citizen survey, etc. At the base of the pyramid are Actions and Performance Metrics which includes focus area cabinets, departmental business plans, the annual operating budget, etc. Patrick entertained questions following his presentation.

David Jackson, Tour Chairman for the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, showed a Power Point Presentation of the 2010 Tour of Homes and encouraged everyone to attend the April 10, 2011 Tour of Remodeled Homes and Landscapes which will be from 2-5 p.m. The Preservation and Germantown Historical Commission are co-sponsoring this event this year. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Volunteers will be able to tour the homes the day before the April 10 event.

Old Business:

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee reminded everyone that unlocked vehicles and vehicles with valuables in plain view are the most frequent targets of thieves. He encouraged everyone to feel free to contact him if he could be of assistance.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy gave an update on the Memphis City/Shelby County School consolidation issue.

She reported what we know now:

1. The March 8 referendum will allow Memphians to vote; within a few months the school board will change, and based on the one man, one vote rule, the majority on the new board will be Memphians.

2. The system will have 150,000 students making it the 14th largest in the nation.
3. There is a lack of understanding of how transition will occur—no law is applicable to Memphis City Schools.
4. Mark Norris' proposed legislation would make existing law apply to MCS. A planning commission would be appointed.
5. Germantown's BMA & staff have been studying what is available to the City if consolidation occurs.

If Germantown pursues a municipal school district:

1. State law has to change to allow municipal districts.
2. The BMA has to then order a city referendum.
3. There are many ramifications—cost, how to obtain/transfer buildings, their cost, annual operating expenses, etc. Currently 4500 students in the 8 schools in Germantown live in Germantown. Another 4000 children in Germantown don't attend public schools.
4. County tax dollars for education follow the student, so would go to Germantown. So would the state education money.
5. Money for at risk students would not come to Germantown.
6. Surrendering the charter is all about money and control.
7. There will be a town hall meeting on February 7 at GPAC at 7 p.m. to share information.

Alderman Drinnon reported that the Mayor will be the official spokesperson for the BMA on this issue.

Special Events Committee Report: Sherrye Rhea announced upcoming events such as a February Dance at the Pickering Center, a March 4 Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, the March 20 Mayor's Half Marathon and upcoming CERT Classes. Presidents Day, February 21, will be a City Offices holiday, but garbage will be picked up on that day.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes announced that there will be no Planning Commission meetings in January or February.

Neighborhood Services Report: Joe Nunes presented the Neighborhood Services Report. He noted that the Citizens Concerns Total by Month reflected a very small percentage of the population. He reminded us that work on the Wolf River Blvd. is on track to start soon and is a nearly 3-year project. The widening of Poplar is due to start in late March or early April and is a projected 18-month project.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011.