

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

November 20, 2008

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Bavarian Village, Farmington Glen, Germantown Trails, Glenalden, Kimbrough Green, Mimosa Gardens, Poplar Estates, Riggs/Arthur, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Sweet Oaks, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

Call to Order: Chairman Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Billy recognized first time visitors from Germantown Trails, Allenby Lakes, Rowan Oak Neighborhood Associations and the management company for Woodshire, Bavarian Village, and Farmington Glen. He also recognized Aldermen Drinnon and Palazzolo.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 25 meeting were approved as written.

Guest Speaker: Ralph Williams, Senior Communication Specialist from Fed Ex spoke on “How to Write a More Effective Newsletter.” He stated that newsletter editors and contributors need to keep in mind at all times “what you want to say, to whom, and how you are going to do it.” Coming up with a one concise sentence as a thematic statement will help you generate general ideas and get where you want to go with your newsletter. Articles should help you prove your theme. He reminded us that it is important to always keep in mind three important facts: 1) you need sources for your newsletter; 2) you need contributors to write the material; and 3) people like to read about people. He pointed out that a newsletter is useless unless you develop ways to gather information—who or what are your sources of materials, who is going to write the material, and how do you get ideas. He also discussed timelines and deadlines and suggested planning backwards for the timing for writing, mailing, and distributing. He also said you need to think forward several months in advance planning for future publications so you are not caught at the last minute without material. He said that it is important to be consistent in the approach to your readership. Mr. Williams answered questions after his presentation.

Old Business:

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee presented the monthly Crime/Activity Report and reported that Residential Burglaries are down 31%. He stated that it is important to take items like GPS equipment off the dash of your vehicle and keep any kind of technological equipment (laptops, cell phones, etc.) hidden when parking in areas like the Wolf River Green Belt. He also mentioned that there had been several burglaries in the Cornwall/Eastern and Cross Village areas of the city. People are purchasing new equipment (flat-screen TVs, computers, etc.) and leaving the boxes at the curb before trash days, thereby tipping off thieves of places that have good items to steal. He suggested disposing of those large boxes at dumpsters. The emergency cell phone number inside of Germantown is *54. Ed can be reached at 601-7935 after 7 PM Tuesdays-Saturdays.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy discussed the impact the current nationwide economic situation is having on Germantown. She stated that foreclosures of homes in Germantown are still low—approximately 30 per year. Because of low sales tax revenues to Germantown, all departments of the City have been asked to cut 3% in their budgets. There will, hopefully, be no loss of positions, but the city is expecting a \$600,000 to \$700,000 shortfall. The update of the Germantown web site was not put off because of its importance.

CONA Special Events Coordinator's Report: David Jackson, Neighborhood Preservation Commission Chairman, announced that the Seventh Annual Tour of Remodeled Homes and Landscapes will be Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 2 to 5 p.m. More homes are needed for the tour, and the application deadline is March 1, 2009.

Neighborhood Services: In Joe Nunes' absence, Sherrye Rhea gave his report. She announced that there are openings on the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, and that an application may be obtained on the City web site or by contacting her. Items coming up before the Planning Commission on December 2 are gates for the Nottingham subdivision, Saddle Creek changes, Old Germantown changes, and an ordinance change regarding front porches. She reminded us that Code Compliance during the leaf-falling season in Germantown is important. Citizens were asked to remember that black bags are not acceptable, and that they should not place their clear leaf bags in the street or near light poles, mailboxes, or low hanging trees. According to the property maintenance ordinance, trash containers may not be visible from the street—they must be screened from view or stored behind the house.

New Business:

Announcements: Jerry Owens, a representative of the Library Board, announced that The Germantown Library has been ranked second in Tennessee and given a National Award based on fifteen criteria for cities with a population of 25,000 or higher.

Sherrye Rhea announced that the deadline for applications to City commissions is November 28. The Holiday Parade will be December 6—a change in the usual schedule. The October Leaders' Conference was a great success with excellent speakers. Next year's conference will be October 22, 2009. The Germantown Symphony and Chorus Christmas Concert will be December 13 at GPAC.

Billy Brown called attention to the Grizzlies Neighborhood Association Night. It will be December 12, and flyers with information are available.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting will be January 22, 2009.