

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

January 22, 2009

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Bavarian Village, Bedford Plantation, Dogwood Grove, Duntreath, Farmington South, Forest Hill Estates, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown Trails, Kimbrough Green, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Park, Mimosa Gardens, Moore Road (South Germantown), Neshoba North, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, The Oaks, Village of Wicklow, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

Call to Order: Chairman Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Billy recognized first time visitors from Germantown Trails, The Oaks, and Alderman John Drinnon.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 20, 2008 meeting were approved as written.

Guest Speakers:

David Jackson, Tour Chairman, from the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, showed a power point presentation of the 2008 Tour of Remodeled Homes and Landscapes. There were comments made about the homes and landscapes highlighted in the presentation by those who attended last year. Currently there are 4 homes signed up for the 2009 Tour but 9 may be featured. The deadline to contact Sheryye Rhea to put your home on the tour is March 5. Everyone was urged to encourage neighbors who have done remodeling to be part of the tour.

Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, reported on the 2009 Board of Mayor and Aldermen retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to stress the importance of the 6 Focus Areas or Goals represented by "Cabinets" which include membership from the city's staff. The Six Focus Area Cabinets are Safe City; Smart Growth Development; City Operating as a Business; Germantown Economy; Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement; Transportation and Traffic Flow.

Patrick offered comments and insights on each of the Focus Areas. Among the insights were the reality that if cuts had not been made, Germantown faced a million dollar deficit because of a pinch in sales tax returns and the lowering of investment income for the city. There was concern expressed about the passage of a collective bargaining bill in Congress and reappraisal appeals especially for commercial sites. To counter these problems a million dollars will have been saved by 2010 through Managed Competition's outsourcing and not filling non-essential positions. Germantown has maintained a AAA bond rating because of sound fiscal policies and the ability of the BMA to react quickly. There is a hope that the nation's fiscal stimulus package could be of assistance to Germantown infrastructure projects, and the City has been in touch with representatives of Senators Alexander and Corker.

In the Transportation and Traffic Flow Goal, Germantown is moving forward with the Germantown Road realignment and Wolf River Blvd. A new traffic camera has been installed at Germantown Road and Poplar, and the City is working on a policy to give the Planning Commission guidelines they can use to address neighborhood associations' concerns about speeding so as to come up with workable solutions besides other than speed bumps and stop signs. There is a possibility that motorcycles may be used in School Zones to address speeding. Under the Safe City Goal, solar-powered cameras have been installed permanently in the Green Way after a successful trial period.

On Thursday, February 12 at 7 PM an important meeting will be held at GPAC on the fiscal analysis of the Public-Private impact of the Smart Growth Area Development. Mention was made of the proposal for the Industrial Development Board to issue revenue bonds to assist in future development.

The Neighborhood Preservation Initiative for older neighborhoods will be playing catch up before starting on any new initiatives in other neighborhoods. Major drainage issues need to be addressed in neighborhoods already studied.

Patrick closed by expressing his willingness to come to any neighborhood association meeting. Associations need only to contact his office.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee presented the monthly Crime/Activity Report, and reported so far in January there had been only one auto burglary and no residential burglaries. In contrast, traffic citations are “through the roof”. Lt. McGee stated that strict traffic enforcement cuts down on other crime. He noted there had been an increase in counterfeit \$100 dollar bills being passed to businesses.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes announced that the February Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled. On the agenda for the March Meeting will be a proposed gate for Garner Woods and the Saddle Creek Four final plan approval.

Neighborhood Services: Under Code Compliance Joe Nunes stated that most vehicle notices given are for the improper parking of trailers. As for solid waste issues, the main problem is people still using black plastic bags for leaves and yard debris, and homeowners’ failure to return garbage cans behind the property after pick up. Since there have been two fires in All Star Waste garbage trucks in the last few months, associations were asked to remind members not to dispose of hazardous, flammable materials in their garbage cans. The Hazardous Waste Site at the AgriCenter is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and it is the proper place to dispose of such materials.

NEW BUSINESS:

Concerns and Updates: Sarah Wilkerson Freeman stated Neshoba North’s concern for homeowners’ property rights and Saddle Creek Four water run-off beyond the 25 year event. Patrick Lawton said that he would research the issue and have an answer by our next meeting.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea announced the following: February 16, Presidents’ Day will have regular trash pick-up. A Town Hall Meeting will be January 29, 5:30-7:30 PM.

There has been a change in the scheduling for CERT to enable participants to have more flexibility. Flyers are available with dates or interested parties may check the City website or contact Sherrye for more information. She also asked that neighborhood associations contact her before putting out their newsletters for interesting additions and information she may provide. Everyone was urged to make sure you have current e-mail addresses for the City because messages will no longer be forwarded. Lastly, Sherrye asked that if your neighborhood association has a Chili Cook-off, please let her know because she is looking for a city-wide winner.

Other Announcements:

Cindy Logan Garrison of Bank Tennessee, located at Poplar and Forest Hill-Irene, announced that the bank is offering a meeting room for neighborhood associations free of charge. A larger room is available at the Collierville branch, also. Contact Cindy at 755-8815 for more information.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM. The next meeting will be March 26, 2009.

