

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

July 24, 2008

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

Neighborhood Associations Represented: Allenby Lakes, Allenby Meadows, Bedford Plantation, Duntreath, Farmington North, Farmington South, Forest Hill Estates, Germantown Park, Germantown Trails, Glenalden, Kimbrough Forest, Kimbrough Green, Mimosa Gardens, Neshoba North, Oakleigh I, Oakleigh II, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Sweet Oaks, The Timbers, Val Verde, Wilsford, Winchester Forest Hill Estates.

Call to Order: Chairman Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions: Billy recognized first time visitors from Neighborhood Associations and several visiting aldermen.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 22 meeting were approved as written.

Guest Speakers: Pam Beasley and Steve Priddy, Co-chairs of the Germantown Wellness Coalition spoke on promoting health and wellness. The Coalition provides a forum for organizations, the City, and individuals, particularly drawing on resources from the Wolf River medical corridor. The aim of the Coalition is to have Germantown be one of the healthiest communities in the nation. Among the activities the forum is sponsoring is "Good to Go Germantown," pickleball on the four Thursdays in September at Riverdale Park, and "Living Green in Germantown," an outdoor expo, on September 20 at Municipal Park. The Germantown Athletic Club, an important partner in the Coalition, will host an open house on Saturday, July 26. Improving health and wellness of students in the schools will also be one of the major objectives of the Coalition. There are currently about 50 people on the committee, but more participation is welcomed. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more information on any of these activities or to serve on the Coalition.

Guest Speakers: Andy Pouncey, Assistant City Administrator, and Tim Gwaltney, City Engineer, gave a power point presentation complete with handouts giving the details of the Germantown Road Realignment with pictures showing the existing conditions and the proposed changes. The project should be ready to be presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen by late September. If approved, it would be 2-2½ years before construction started and, optimistically, another 2-3 years to complete the project. Numerous questions followed the presentation since this is a project which affects the traffic patterns in the heart of Germantown and involves a major railroad crossing.

Old Business:

Police Department Report: Lt. Ed McGee presented the monthly Crime/Activity Report and reported that residential burglaries are down. He also noted that many apartment burglaries have been solved. In response to a question about Germantown being a speed trap, he noted that the aggressive enforcement of clearly posted speed limits has been shown to cut down on crime. Ed now works nights and can be contacted at 601-7935.

Special Events Coordinators Report: Rebecca DeRousse invited everyone to attend the Neighborhood Leadership Conference to be held October 23 at The Great Hall of the Germantown Athletic Club. Neighborhood associations can have displays and may help by providing sponsorships from Bronze (\$50.00) to Platinum (\$500.00) levels. There is no fee for booth space. Neighborhood Association of the Year, Neighborhood Leader of the Year,

Neighbor of the Year, Neighborhood Project/Activity of the Year, Remodeled/Landscaped Home of the Year and Most Effective Neighborhood Communication awards will be presented. The deadline for nominations is October 1. Attendees will be able to enjoy refreshments, hear a panel discussion, and attend two sessions. Registration is required. Contact Sherrye Rhea, 757-7203, to sign up.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sharon Goldsworthy addressed the impact on Germantown of the current nationwide problem of bankruptcies and foreclosures. She said the City keeps a watchful eye on such trends for tax purposes and to be sure properties are maintained, codes are enforced, and utilities and taxes are paid. So far there have been very few foreclosures in the city. She asked that residents notify the City of vacant homes in their neighborhoods. She also mentioned that there has been a 25% reduction of accidents with the installation of traffic light cameras.

Neighborhood Services: Joe Nunes announced that there are currently three Code Compliance Officers, and they will be introduced at a CONA meeting when the full staff of four officers is reached. He noted that solid waste complaints had a 97% resolution level within 24 hours. One campaign sign is allowed per candidate, per street frontage, for 60 days prior to the election.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes announced that the application for closure of Willey Road has been withdrawn until a traffic study has been done.

New Business:

Association Concerns: Greg Marcom of Poplar Estates Neighborhood Association thanked Joe Nunes for solving a problem by enforcing the city's codes. Sarah Wilkerson Freeman announced that Neshoba North is having a Bike Night and asked all neighborhoods north of Neshoba to join them. Call 240-3961 to participate.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea announced that the City will do Neighborhood Night Out on October 7 when it is cooler. She presented the schedule for upcoming CERT classes and asked people to encourage teenagers to take the class. She also reminded people that, if 15 people sign up, the class can be scheduled for just your neighborhood association. An Advanced CERT class is the planning stage.

Billy Brown announced that CONA is looking for someone to take Barbara Olmsted's place as Special Events Coordinator. The program for the September CONA Meeting will be "How to Write a More Effective Newsletter."

Joe Nunes introduced Tim Bierdz, Staff Engineer for Storm Water Management.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be September 26, 2008.