

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS
January 25, 2007
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Allenby Lakes, Duntreath, Farmington South, Fox Creek, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown East, Germantown Heights, Germantown Park, Germantown Trails, Glenalden, Kimbrough Park, Kimbrough Woods, Lansdowne Place, Mimosa Gardens, Neshoba North, Poplar Estates, Poplar Grove, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, Steeplegate, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

CALL TO ORDER: Edgar Babian call the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Edgar welcomed first time visitors from Carter's Grove, Duntreath, Glenalden, Rowan Oak, Germantown Heights, Lansdowne Place, Poplar Grove, Farmington South, and Neshoba North.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 16 meeting were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKER: Andy Pouncey, Assistant City Administrator, spoke about Smart Growth, a non-residential plan that is an outgrowth of the Germantown Vision 2020 study. He described the planned redevelopment of the heart of Germantown with mixed use development, establishing strong retail businesses and office spaces for professional services. It would feature a pedestrian friendly layout linked to a citywide path/trail system. Implementation of such a program would be enhanced by providing economic incentives and financing strategies. Transportation recommendations include key gateway intersections for pedestrians, connecting Germantown Road to Germantown Road, and reclamation of unused asphalt for on-street parking. A primary development goal of Smart Growth is to support additional retail and restaurant offerings, which would broaden the commercial tax base, thereby heightening the city's income without increasing property taxes.

Citizens should be watching for rezoning in the strategic growth area as well as changes occurring in some of the City codes to enable the City to be ready to implement the Smart Growth plan. Along with these changes, there will be two additions to the CIP for this project: one for storm drainage, another for intersection improvement.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONA Special Events Coordinator's report: Luci Cromer encouraged the neighborhoods to plan to attend the next Neighborhood Leaders' Conference. The response from the first one was positive and encouraging. A tentative date has been set for Thursday October 25

Mayor's Report: There was no report

Planning Report: As a new feature at CONA meetings, City staff will highlight planning contracts that are schedule to be presented to the Planning Commission and contracts that have been approved by the BMA. It is hoped that this will keep neighborhoods better informed about development taking place near them. Andy Pouncey distributed a list of 11 contracts that have been approved since November 2006 and the agenda for the February 6, 2007 Planning Commission meeting that showed 4 projects coming before the commission.

Police Report: Lt. Mark Molina is the new Community Relations officer. He encouraged neighborhoods to call him or Sherrye Rhea when they want a speaker from the police department. Identity theft and safety are two subjects that associations might want to have addressed. The Germantown Police Department is recruiting reserve police officers, and he asked CONA members to spread the word. Reserve officers are vital to our community in various ways, especially during the horse show and the Germantown Festival. Interested people may obtain more information by contacting the GPD directly or through the city's website. A Citizens Police Academy will be starting again for people who want to know more about police activities. It runs four weeks, 1 night/week from 6:00-10:00 p.m. He advised that it is a very popular program and is offered on a first come, first served basis.

Neighborhood Services Report: Joe Nunes reported that the primary reason for our

change in trash removal is cost savings. Over the 4 years of the contract, the City estimates that savings will be over 1 million dollars. This past fall, recycling of yard debris netted 15,000 cubic yards per month that was not going into the landfill. Approximately 98% of solid waste concerns are being resolved within 24 hours. Notices to homeowners are up significantly because of changes in the solid waste and lawn maintenance ordinances. These are diminishing monthly as more people meet compliance standards. Decorative street signs are now being installed. Joe anticipates that the installation rate will be 30-40/week so that by spring Phase I should be completed. CERT classes are going on now. Joe has enrolled and recommends the program highly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Association concerns: There were no association concerns.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea emphasized upcoming CERT programs. In March, the class will be at the Germantown Church of Christ. She advised that if 15-30 neighbors wanted to have a CERT class held in their neighborhood, the City will work it out. Relay for Life is June 2 & 3, and the Mayor is the chairman of this event.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting will be March 22, 2007.