

## **COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

July 26, 2007

Council Chambers

Germantown Municipal Center

**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED:** Bromley, Dogwood Creek South, Duntreath, Fox Creek, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown East, Germantown Park, Germantown Station, Germantown Trails, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Park, Kimbrough Woods, Neshoba North, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Winchester Forest Hill Estates.

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

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Edgar recognized first time visitors from Bromley and Boy Scout Troop 64 from Germantown United Methodist Church.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the May 24 meeting were approved as written.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Patrick Lawton, City Administrator, presented a review of the FY 08 budget. He discussed the budget process, fiscal outlook, and the focus areas of the BMA. He discussed various projects coming out of the General Fund, Capital Improvements Program, Enterprise Fund, and Special Revenue Fund. Our property tax rate remains at \$1.54, and the last tax increase was in July, 2003. The City maintains its AAA bond rating. The City will cover the deficit projected at the Germantown Centre.

Fire Chief Dennis Wolf discussed the new ambulance contract with Rural Metro. There are several changes that come with this contract: there will be double the number of ambulances (12) in the County and 2 of those will be assigned to Germantown; performance standards and escalating penalty fees will be levied for substandard performance; penalties will be levied for insufficient equipment; an oversight committee made up of representatives from each community, a medical director and another physician and the contractor will monitor performance; and there will be an EMS coordinator and will work with the contractor.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**CONA Special Events Coordinator's Report:** Luci Cromer reminded neighborhoods that the Neighborhood Leaders' Conference will be Thursday, October 25, 2007 in the Great Hall at the Germantown Centre. The theme is Neighborhoods Matter. There will be a panel discussion about building better neighborhood associations, and the three break-out sessions will cover neighborhood landscaping, neighborhood safety, and protection against liability. There is no cost for this event. Brochures will be out soon, and residents may register individually. Early October is the deadline for neighborhood associations to register for booth space. If an individual, business, or neighborhood association would like to be a sponsor of this event and get publicity in the brochure, call Rebecca DeRousse at 355-5169.

Billy Brown reminded people that the 2008 Tour of Remodeled Homes and Landscapes will be the last weekend in April. People should be nominating their homes for the tour now.

**Mayor's Report:** Patrick Lawton reviewed the activities that have taken place in the city over the summer and discussed the upcoming GPAC schedule. This fall a sixth police district will be established in the annexation area. 7 new officers will be added to the force by then. Derek Chaput is the new director of the Germantown Centre. A survey of members is being conducted, and focus groups will be set up. The BMA will be asked to consider the SMART

growth plan in August. The City's website is being upgraded, and residents soon will be able to make online payments.

Planning Report: Joe Nunes distributed information about upcoming projects before the Planning Commission. This included 7 residential developments, 5 commercial, 2 office buildings, and a hospital expansion.

Police Report: Lt. Mike Gray reminded people about National Night Out on August 7. The department recently graduated a reserve class that worked the horse show. The new sixth district should be fully staffed by January 1. In the May activity report, Mike pointed out that non-aggravated assaults, residential burglaries, and business thefts have increased over last year's numbers. The officers assigned to the greenbelt area for the summer will soon be shifted back to the schools to serve as school resource officers.

Neighborhood Services Report: Joe Nunes discussed the NSD report. He noted that door-to-door solicitation, trash & refuse notices, and vehicle notices were higher than last year. He also mentioned that bids will be accepted for phase two of the decorative street signs. He is hoping that installation will begin in spring of 2008. 13 neighborhoods signed up for the signs, and the BMA has increased the funding hoping that all of them will receive their signs.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Nominating Committee: John Gregory announced that he is forming a nominating committee per instruction of the bylaws. He needs 2 volunteers from the current members of CONA. To be considered a current member, you must have attended 3 of the last 6 meetings.

Association concerns: There were no concerns expressed.

Announcements: Sherrye Rhea reminded people about National Night Out. She also mentioned the upcoming Sidewalk Sale and No-tax weekend. There are three CERT classes scheduled through the end of this year. It is possible to have a special CERT class scheduled just for members of your neighborhood association.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m. The next meeting will be September 27. David Pickler will be speaking about the state of Shelby County Schools in Germantown.