

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

November 16, 2006

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Allenby Lakes, Bavarian Village, Duntreath, Farmington North, Farmington South, Gardens of Oakleigh, Kimbrough Grove, Kimbrough Park, Kimbrough Woods, Mimosa Gardens, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Rowan Oak, The Vineyards, Val Verde, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

CALL TO ORDER: Edgar Babian called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Edgar welcomed the first time visitors from Kimbrough Park, Kimbrough Woods, and Farmington North.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 28 meeting were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKER: City Administrator, Patrick Lawton introduced the guest speaker, Michael Saddler, the city's Managed Competition Director. Mr. Sadler began by giving a brief review of the focus areas of the Vision 2020 planning model. In explanation, Managed Competition is a way of conducting the City's business in a manner that is customer focused. Its goal is to provide customers the highest quality of service at the lowest possible costs-operating a governmental body more like a business. Germantown is the only city to engage in Managed Competition voluntarily. Most communities have to employ it as a last resort to save their cities from further decay-increased crime, instability of finances and dropped services. Michael advised that the bar has been set high by the City because our citizens expect it. The objective is NOT to accelerate privatization of City services, to simply cut costs or to eliminate jobs. Rather, the objective is to build competitive business units, continuous improvement programs, and an outcomes-based management system that identifies measurable service outcomes. Changes are coming as efficiency and performance need improving. All departments of the city are engaged in the process, and contracts are being closely managed to see where efficiencies can be found. The result: becoming a more effective provider of vital services.

OLD BUSINESS: Neighborhood Leaders' Conference 2006 Recap: Billy Brown gave a recap of this event sponsored by the Neighborhood Preservation Commission and Leadership Germantown Alumni Association. The seminars were well attended, and neighborhoods were able to compare concerns and solutions. There was a real sense of community pride. Awards were given in a variety of categories. The Neighborhood of the Year award went to The Oaks, and CONA's own vice-president, John Gregory, was presented the award for Neighbor of the Year. In exit surveys 94% of attendees would attend another conference and would recommend it to others.

Neighborhood Services Report: Joe Nunes reported that solid waste collections complaints are at the usual levels, down from the first quarter of the new contract. Due to the new Property Maintenance Ordinance, gross violations are up, as are nuisance notices. He also reminded those present of the free mulch and firewood giveaway that would take place on November 18 at C.O. Franklin Park. The decorative street signs are en route and expected in the city in about 3 weeks.

Mayor's Report: Sherrye Rhea gave the Mayor's report and highlighted all the Hometown for the Holidays events coming up in the city over the next several weeks. The Holiday Tree Lighting will be November 24 at 5:30 PM. Among other activities, residents may bid on tabletop trees sold by auction to benefit the Sister City Foundation. For children up to age 10, the Journey to the North Pole will be in the Great Hall of the Germantown Centre Dec. 1 & 2. The Holiday Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 9 starting at 2 p.m. at the intersection of Kimbrough Rd. and Farmington Blvd. Neighborhood associations are encouraged to have an entry in the parade. Applications for the Beautification Commission's Holiday Lighting Contest are due by December 11, and winners will be announced on December 15. The Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program has added a class in January. The Mayor's goal is to have 10% of the citizenry trained to support the community and emergency services in the event of a catastrophe. If interested in attending or finding out more information, contact 757-7263 or Edgar Babian at 757-7267.

Police Report: Lt. Jack Antonuk presented The Monthly Crime/Activity Report for September. Currently crime statistics are fairly level--about where they have been. Burglaries in the GPAC lot

are down due to a greater number of patrols and the addition of private security. Questions and answers about the report and individual categories followed. The police will be looking into the cause of the Police Alert Network internet system not being updated as frequently as before.

NEW BUSINESS: Association Concerns: CONA Vice-President Chuck Mullins advised all that car jackers are now putting circulars on the back windows of parked cars. People are stopping to remove them when backing out of a parking spot, leaving the keys and, for women, their purses accessible for a thief to jack their cars. With a purse, your address and house keys would be in criminal hands. The trees and shrubbery at the intersection of Allenby and Farmington blocks the vision of motorists trying to make a right turn onto Farmington. This will be checked and corrected.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be January 25, 2007.