

## **COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

GERMANTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

**NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED:** Cordes West, Dogwood Creek South, Dogwood Grove, Duntreath, English Meadows, Farmington East, Forest Hill Estates, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown East, Germantown Station, Kimbrough Grove, Oakleigh III, Poplar Estates, Poplar Grove, Riverchase, Shady Creek, South Germantown, Steeplegate, The Vineyards, Waverley Crossing, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Luci Cromer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Luci welcomed first time visitors from Oakleigh III, Farmington East, Vineyards, West Cordes, Duntreath, and Dogwood Trail.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes were approved as written.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** David Pickler, Chairman Shelby County Board of Education, gave a report on the State of Shelby County Schools (SCS) in Germantown and also provided an update on the new high school in Southeast Shelby County. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, the SCS system has taken in more children on a per capita basis than any other school system in America. In Germantown alone there are over 130 displaced students attending schools. Schools have collected over \$80,000, and untold amounts of food and clothing. SCS has over 45,000 students, over 5,200 employees, and 3,200 teachers (56% with master's degrees or higher). SCS has opened up two new schools this year, Bon Lin and Bailey Station Elementary. SCS exceeded state benchmarks in the No Child Left Behind Program. Money Magazine recognized SCS as one of the Top 100 School Systems in America. The budget for 2005-06 is \$282 million budget. Last year they used \$5.5 from the Rainy Day fund, after \$16 million in cuts were made. 389 positions were eliminated including 22 Central Office Administrators. 17,000 residential lots have been approved for development in SCS districts, and based on research it will generate about 8000 new students. Recently, the two school boards entered into an agreement for joint MCS/SCS funding arrangements.

There were 5 or 6 quality areas identified for the new high school in Southeast Shelby County, but as time went by there was only 1 realistic site left. The school is scheduled to open in the fall of 2007 for at least a ninth grade class. Each year a class will be added. SCS Board of Education and The City School System have approved the site at Hacks Cross and Shelby Drive. The building of this school will relieve the overcrowding of Germantown, Houston, and Collierville high schools.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor's report—Mayor Goldsworthy said the City of Germantown has been looking very closely at emergency preparedness, especially how we will deal with

an earthquake. Germantown's goal is to train citizens to take care of situations until emergency personnel arrive. CERT is a 20-hour training program to teach citizens to deal with disasters or emergencies and to make decisions about when an emergency responder is needed. The Mayor encourages neighborhood associations to have at least one person from their neighborhood take the CERT training.

Police Department report— Jim Bruce said there are no major problems to report. The automated enforcement traffic lights are working well, and there will be a detailed report given on the system at the next CONA meeting.

Neighborhood Services Division—Joe Nunes said the sanitation concerns for July and August were down but to date sanitation concerns are up about 25%. This is the last year of the contract with BFI and there will be a bid for next year. On November 5, Shelby County will have the annual Hazardous Waste Day at the Fairgrounds. They will accept oil-based paint, chemicals, and substances that cannot be disposed of at Germantown's Amnesty Day. The Property Maintenance Ordinance was passed two weeks ago and there are a number of revisions. NSD is in the process of updating its information sheets and notices. Staff members from the Neighborhood Services Division are available to speak at Neighborhood Meetings. More detail will be provided at the next CONA meeting about the new ordinance.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bylaws Committee—Members John Gregory, Chair, Luci Cromer and Billy Brown met to review the bylaws. The committee recommended minor changes that dealt with the definition of a current member, using the immediate past chairman in an advisory capacity, and eligibility to serve. Terry Fischer moved to accept the changes, and Billy Brown seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposition.

Nominating Committee— Election of CONA officers to two-year terms will be November 17. Only one vote per association will be permitted. Only current members of CONA are eligible to serve and must have attended three CONA meetings in the past twelve months. Officers include Chairman, Vice Chairman of Membership, Vice Chairman of Program, Secretary and the Special Projects Coordinator. The Executive Committee will appoint a nominating committee, comprised of three members and chaired by Chuck Mullins. No person can serve two consecutive terms on the nomination committee. Only persons who consent to serve will be nominated. Anyone interested in running for an office must fill out a biographical information form. The deadline for notifying the Nominating Committee is Monday, October 10. On the cover sheet, Chuck Mullins telephone number is wrong; it is 751-7133.

Association concerns and updates—There were none.

Announcements— Jim Bruce handed out information about Leadership Germantown, a program developed to identify and prepare community leaders to get involved in commissions or committees or to be involved in the community. It is a six-month program and is only open to residents of Germantown or people who work in Germantown. Applications are due by November 15, and the class is

limited to 25 people. More information is available at the Germantown Chamber of Commerce web site. He also asked that CONA members make the information available to each Neighborhood Association.

Billy Brown talked about Neighborhood Fest, a festival to promote new and stronger neighborhood associations by offering a forum of recognizing neighborhood achievements. Plans are to recruit participants from government, the business community and other organizations to provide information through booths, displays and seminars. There are also plans to have a bratwurst cook-off, a cake sale or cakewalk, barrel roll, moon bounce, races, etc.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the next CONA meeting will be November 17, the third Thursday in November.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.