

COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

January 27, 2005
Council Chambers
Germantown Municipal Center

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Allenby Westfair, Duntreath, Forest Hill Estates, Gardens of Oakleigh, Germantown East, Germantown Park, Germantown Station, Glenalden, Grove Park, Kimbrough Grove, Poplar Estates, Riverchase, Shady Creek, The Village of Wicklow, Williams Glen, Winchester Forest Hill Estates, Woodshire

GUESTS: Geoffrey Pratt, Jim Bruce, and Joe Nunes.

CALL TO ORDER: Luci Cromer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Luci Cromer welcomed first time guests and representatives from Kimbrough Grove, Germantown East, Woodshire, Duntreath, and English Meadows.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes were approved as written.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Cynthia Davis and Billy Brown, from the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, talked about the 2005 Germantown Tour of Renovated Homes and Landscapes. Pictures from last year's very successful home tour were shown. This year's tour will be on Sunday, April 17, 2005, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. The purpose for the tour is motivational for sustaining and upgrading property. The Commission is looking for referrals for the home tour that have been renovated in the past five years and that provide diversity of styles and sizes. Participants will be given a questionnaire to complete to provide information needed for the newspapers. Flyers announcing the tour will be placed only in businesses in Germantown. A list of all the contractors with their phone numbers will be placed in each renovated home. So far, there are two homes in Poplar Estates that will be a part of the tour this year. Anyone who might be interested should contact Cynthia at 737-7324.

Community-wide Blood Drive- Mayor Goldsworthy was called out of town. This topic will be addressed at a later date.

Geoffrey Pratt, Chairman Public Safety Education Commission, gave an overview of Operation Lifesaver, a program sponsored by the railroads dealing with railroad safety. Operation Lifesaver deals with any time citizens are approaching or are on railroad property. One thousand people lost their lives last year due to railroad related accidents. There are 22 railroad crossings between Mendenhall and Houston Levee, making that track one of the busiest in the country. Memphis is one of four cities in the US that has five major railroads going through it. Operation Lifesaver came from a group of railroad employees who became concerned about people who put themselves in harms way on railroad property. They put together a simple program in the State of Idaho with a 40% reduction of accidents. Other states tried the program also with significant reductions in accidents. It is now an international program. As a result of Operation Lifesaver there are horns on trains, crossing arms, etc. The program is about 40 minutes and includes a video. There is no cost. A volunteer presents this program, which can be tailored for

adults, small children, or youth, at neighborhood association or other civic meetings. The program for children is about 15 minutes. Any association interested in having Operation Lifesaver presented to its members should contact Geoffrey Pratt at 755-4091.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mayor's Report - The Mayor's Report was presented by Joe Nunes. Three major road projects are getting under way. Kimbrough Road will be widened with a traffic signal at Dogwood. That project is scheduled to begin in the next couple of weeks, and sidewalks will be placed on both sides of Kimbrough. There will be a drainage project at Hacks Cross in the Waverly Crossing and Cross Village area. Hacks Cross will be down to one lane in both directions. Germantown Road South is on the TDOT schedule for widening in 2006 from Stout Road to the city limits.

Police Department Report - The Germantown Police Department Monthly Crime and Activity Report was presented by Captain Jim Bruce. December was very busy because of ice on the roadways. Alarm calls are down for the year. There was an alcohol sting a couple of weeks ago, and all of the stores passed. The question was asked if it is advisable to have window guards placed on windows. Captain Bruce said that if someone wants in a house badly enough they will get in, and window guards can be a problem in the event of a fire. There is not enough data yet to determine if there is a reduction in accidents due to the automated enforcement traffic lights. Motorized vehicles that are not licensed, such as electric or motorized scooters, cannot be on public roads. One of the CONA members commended the police department on how they handled a fatal accident on Kimbrough last week.

Neighborhood Services Department Report - Joe Nunes said the Mayor's Action Center and Code Compliance are part of the Neighborhood Services Department Report. A coordinator has been hired and will begin work on February 1. The property maintenance ordinance was tabled around election time but is back on the agenda for the Board of Mayor and Alderman, possibly in February. Sanitation is the number one reason why citizens call the city. There was a problem in December, because of the ice, but things should be back on schedule. There has been concern about the trash on the streets for a period of time. BFI missed a little over two days when the ice hit. Yard waste was suspended for the week following Christmas so they could assist the trash pickup.

NEW BUSINESS:

Association concerns and updates – There were no neighborhood concerns.

Announcements – CONA and the Neighborhood Services Department is co-sponsoring a program to help start or re-energize neighborhood associations. They will be meetings in different areas of the city in the coming months. If you are having problems with your own neighborhood association, let Luci Cromer know, and they will help you. The March CONA meeting will be the budget meeting, and it is the time to bring up projects that need to be funded. This is a very important meeting for neighborhood associations.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

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