

**GERMANTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23, 2010**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Germantown Parks and Recreation Commission for September 23, 2010 took place at Germantown Parks and Recreation, 2276 West Street.

**PRESENT:**

Kevin Young, Chairman  
Jerry Gee  
Mary Anne Gibson  
Angela Sorensen  
Rodney Strop  
Mark Billingsley, Alderman  
Pam Beasley, Director of Parks and Recreation

**ABSENT:**

William Kenley  
Bob Timm  
Rick Bennett, Planning Commission Liaison

**GUESTS:**

George Brogdon

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Gee, seconded by Alderman Billingsley to approve the September 23, 2010 agenda as submitted.

Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Sorensen – yes; Strop – yes; Billingsley - yes. Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2010

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 1 – Under ‘Approval of Minutes’ – Change “Mr. Gibson” to “Mrs. Gibson”.
- Page 6 – first paragraph – Mr. Gee clarified that the field the Germantown Baseball League was permitted to use was already in use. It was not a field that was being taken out of a resting period.

It was moved by Mr. Strop, seconded by Mr. Gee to approve the August 26, 2010 minutes as corrected.

Young – yes; Gee – yes; Gibson – abstain; Sorensen – yes; Strop – yes; Billingsley – yes.  
Motion approved.

2010 GIRLS FALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Ms. Ruffin reported that Bill Irby, President of the Germantown High School Girls Soccer Boosters, is requesting to reserve the Farmington East soccer field for a fundraising event on

November 13 and 14, 2010. He is requesting the rental fee, including the deposit, be waived so that all proceeds will benefit the Germantown High School Booster Club. Mr. Gee inquired if there is anyone else for which the fee has been waived and Ms. Ruffin stated a rental has only been waived for tennis.

It was moved by Mrs. Gibson, seconded by Alderman Billingsley to approve the donation of field time at Farmington Soccer field on November 13 and 14, 2010.

Young – yes; Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Sorensen – yes; Strop – yes; Billingsley - yes

#### SUMMARY OF PARK MASTER PLAN WORK SESSION #1 ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

Ms. Beasley stated that all of the commission leaders and facilitators at the table were asked to try to record the majority of the thoughts shared and anything that was written was collected as well. Ms. Beasley and Mrs. Griffin listed all of the themed comments and recorded the number of responses received for each theme. Ms. Beasley summarized that the group as a whole wanted to preserve the site as a whole in its natural state and to formulate a reuse of the Ocean View property. Of the two user groups that could be identified, one had representatives from the Shakespeare theater and the other was a combination of people from the historic group and garden club. They were promoting the idea of a historic village and an amphitheater.

Ms. Beasley provided a draft of a questionnaire which contains questions to be answered by the Tennessee Shakespeare Company and the Germantown Museum Committee. The first is when they would want to use or operate their facility. The purpose of this question is to know the specific use for the facility and vision they are trying to create. The next question is the type of fee are they going to charge for the program. Mr. Billingsley stated he would like to see a program overview and the question of what other formalized groups are officially supportive of their efforts that would be complimentary of what they are attempting to do. Letters of support should be included from other groups in the community who support their efforts and would use the space as well.

Ms. Beasley stated that the commission has to send a recommendation to the Board of Mayor and Alderman and the commission has to feel comfortable that they have reached out and understand everybody's needs. Mr. Billingsley stated that this is a public assembly area and the City has never built anything for one group so the focus should be on a public assembly area. He also believes if there are vested stakeholders then the project would be stronger but as of right now the City is the only stakeholder. Mr. Billingsley would like to see what each group is willing to put into the project and what the staff could utilize. He said a lot of people would be more open to a public facility area if they saw public involvement. Mr. Strop had a problem with only hearing about one possible stakeholder, the Tennessee Shakespeare Company, and not hearing any real interest from other stakeholders. He is concerned that it will become a Shakespearean theater area and he does not think people will help as much as needed with a Shakespearean theater. There was a discussion that there are people who indicated they would like to see musical projects and concerts. Mr. Young spoke with more people who wanted to see a historic village and they were willing to come up with some monies and help as well.

Mr. Brogdon made aware that the present plan of a public assembly area takes a 400 to 500 foot road through Ocean View around the soccer field. It will come up from Cloyes Park's parking lot and runs parallel to the soccer field until it gets to the carriage road that would be behind the public assembly area and would connect to that road. The commission needs to consider the road and if it will fit in with what is going to be done or does the City need to look at a different option. Mrs. Gibson's group was opposed to having speakers in the park or a high level of lighting but there is already heavy lighting in the park.

Mr. Gee asked if there was an amphitheater in the Master Plan for Municipal Park. They looked at mitigating that land but it proved too expensive since more land has to be bought at the same value. Mr. Strop and Mr. McLeary were the only two at that table who did not voice to use the park area for an amphitheater and Mr. McLeary was the only one who said no. Pam has a statement from the Germantown Community Theater that they were not opposed to it but they would not use the amphitheater as the stage was not conducive to their uses.

Pam will have Mr. Mcleary or a representative and a representative from the museum group at the next meeting which is on Thursday, September 28 at 5:30 pm. Pam will draft the questionnaire and send it out. The Commission requested that the Germantown Community Theater and the Germantown Festival officially say whether or not they would utilize the farm. Mr. Gee spoke with Emily Bader and the garden club does have some funds that, if we were to expand an arboretum or an education area, they would be willing to help. Mr. Billingsley asked if those who have horses on the farm have an opinion. He also questioned why the horse grounds were not used by musical groups. Mr. Young asked if the City had any control over the property and Pam stated that area is leased to them but in the contract it states that we can work with them when it is not scheduled.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*TRPA Conference Report* – The Germantown team received four awards. Kevin Weaver's adult baseball program won in the programming division, Michelle McDonnell's special needs prom night won in the special events category. Everybody's Tree House won for the best renovated facility. One of the categories was for individuals in service hours, particularly in parks and design, and Emily Bader won for Arbor Day.

*Riverdale Playground Project Funding Report* - \$46,500 has been raised and Pam has three garden clubs and the PTA at Riverdale who have committed to donate but we are unaware of how much.

*Policy Letter 33 – BMA Agenda item for October 11, 2010* – The recommendations will be moving forward so the Germantown Baseball League can make selections. The recommendations are that the residency requirement change to seventy percent for each team rather than each age group and students attending a Germantown school will be counted as a resident but will pay the non-resident fee if they do not live in the City. Ms. Beasley does not anticipate having to grant another variance with the exception of an older age group. If it is left as is, the risk is run of someone requesting a variance. Ms Ruffin stated that the recommendation adds consistency and it's easier to manage. Ms. Beasley believes patrons are satisfied for two reasons which includes allowing school children to count as residents and allowing for a multi-year agreement at the City's option. People do not want to feel as though a

new group is coming in each year to run the GBL. Those attending a Germantown school will be counted as a resident but they will pay the non-resident fee.

#### REPORTS FROM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Ms. Beasley stated that the Tree Board is looking at an annual contract with an arborist which may be a cost effective way to give expertise that is needed in Germantown so the Tree Board is going to be studying that possibility during the upcoming budget.

There is a consolidation meeting tonight and there is another consolidation presentation meeting at GPAC in October. A press release stated there would be designated speakers from the City. If your group would like to have a representative speak, the City has devised teams of people to come out to your group and make a presentation on tax consolidation.

There are several neighborhoods who would like to turn private streets back to public. The City has devised a way to bring the streets back to satisfactory standards and then the City will assume responsibility. A packet is available with the standards and City staff will discuss the information with the neighborhood association as well.

#### RECREATION UPDATE

The Youth Soccer Advisory Council will meet on Wednesday, September 29.

Jared Azzone will be starting on October 4 and he is coming from the City of Olive Branch. He has five years of strong experience with assisting with sports programs. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the University of Mississippi and he is currently pursuing his MBA. He will be overseeing the youth soccer program.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of a time change for the regularly scheduled meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.