

**Germantown Athletic Club Advisory Commission  
Minutes**

**Tuesday – February 7, 2012  
Great Hall – Conference Center**

**Members Present:** Chairman Garth Thompson, Alderman Chism, Mrs. Dee Dee Dunehew, Mr. Bill Erskine, Mr. Ron Fittes, Mr. Jim Hastings, Ms. Kelly Nanney, Mrs. Kristin New, and Mr. Ric Wolbrecht

**Members Absent:** Mr. Joe Denton, and Mr. Ron Rossman

**City Staff Present:** Mr. Phil Rogers, Ms. Carrie Corbett, Mr. Curt Cromis, and Ms. Debbie Powers

**Call to Order**

Chairman Garth Thompson called the February 7, 2012 meeting to order. The meeting was held in the Great Hall.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Chairman Garth Thompson asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Mr. Bill Erskine and seconded by Mrs. Kristin New and all were in favor.

## **Germantown Code of Ethical Conduct for City Officials and Tennessee Public Meeting Laws**

Chairman Thompson opened the meeting explaining the handout from the City on the Code of Ethical Conduct for Officials for the City of Germantown, and he then asked everyone once they had a chance to read it, to sign and return the Code of Ethics Acknowledgement statement with the City.

Chairman Thompson then explained the handout on Open Meetings in Tennessee and Compliance with the Public Meeting Law, or the "Sunshine Law" one of the most comprehensive open meeting laws in the country. The Public Meetings Law declares closed-door, back-room meetings by the public officials illegal if there is any deliberation toward a decision. Practically all meetings of a City's governing body and boards are covered by the Public Meetings Law, with a few exceptions. Basically there are no closed sessions and the residents of the City or anyone can attend the meetings.

### **Club Reports:**

Mr. Rogers opened the Club reports acknowledging the Athletic Club would be losing Ashley Hisky at the Exeter desk to the City of Germantown's Court dept. in the next few weeks.

Next Mr. Rogers stated that for the month of January, the Athletic Club gained 355 new members and 177 renewals a total of 532 memberships. He added that the revenue for January 2012 had an increase of 10% compared to January 2011. Mr. Rogers stated that the staff is working on the 2013 budget, and he is asking for 3 long term Capital Improvement Projects:

- New Pool Liner
- UV Filtration System for the pool
- Renovations for the overall facility

Mr. Hastings asked the difference between the UV filtration system and the Saline System, and which is better on the liner.

Mr. Rogers responded that a Saline System is where salt makes it own chlorine. The Saline pools also have the UV filtration, and even though we use Chlorine tablets, it requires salt be added as well. The UV Filtration is a supplement to the chlorine and salt, that purifies the water coming into the pool. Obviously the City is trying to go green, and we are looking at all aspects of the Saline and Chlorine chemicals, which are equal or about the same cost, due to the cost of the molecular breakdown over time.

Mr. Rogers explained to the members that Mr. Lawton, Administration and the Board of Mayor and Alderman, has asked him, and Mr. Chuck Porter, at the Great Hall, to look at, and discuss with their Commission Members, the closing of the Great Hall doors to the Athletic Club. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the Great Hall and Athletic club.

- 2000 the Great Hall was built with the additional weight floor area as part of the Athletic Club
- 2009 the City separated the Great Hall and the Athletic Club into different entities
- Cost versus Benefit:
  - Staffing cost of \$50,196+
  - Check-ins on the Great Hall side average 183 daily visits compared to 826 on the Exeter side

Great Hall Benefits:

- Athletic Club members would not be interrupting their rentals such as wedding receptions, etc.
- Liability with people who may not have a reason for being in their facility
- Great Hall Commission voted to close the doors to the Athletic Club

Athletic Club Benefits

- Athletic Club Liability, we need to know who is in the building and why
- Loss of Customer Service, and loss of income
- Multiple entrances are hard to police
- Budget savings on utilities, and staffing

Mr. Rogers proposed to close the Great Hall entrance doors effective March 31, beginning, Sunday April 1, our members will no longer be allowed in the Great Hall entrance.

Mrs. Dunehew asked if our staff is going to stop the customers for the Great Hall, and ask them to walk around the building to enter the building, which she believes is tacky and poor customer service. She added when it is raining, people will not care, that we are two separate entities, when we ask them to use another door.

Mr. Rogers responded it will take educating and training staff on how to handle the situation, and notifying our members in advance about the doors closing. Also Chairman Thompson and Mrs. Nanney stated that we have separate addresses and it will be the responsibility of the Great Hall to advertise their address and parking for their customers. Mr. Erskine stated that it appears to him there would be a bigger adverse effect on the customers for the Great Hall side, than ours. Mr. Rogers responded he has talked with them and they are willing to take on that responsibility.

Chairman Thompson asked Mr. Rogers to elaborate on the employees who are working at that desk and how they will be affected. Mr. Rogers explained that our one full time person, Ms. Cavendar, retired, at the end of December, and her position was not filled. Also he added Brian is a staple of the Athletic Club, and he and the other part time staff will be utilized in other areas of the club. But it is a business decision and he will be cutting hours for the part time staff. He added the Great Hall does not share the cost of our staff for greeting customers at that door.

Mr. Rogers asked for a motion from the Commission.

Chairman Thompson asked if there was a motion on the floor for permanently closing the Great Hall entrance effective March 31, 2012 for the Athletic Club members, and acknowledge that the main entrance facing Exeter Rd, as the only member entrance for the Germantown Athletic Club. Mr. Erskine asked for a motion by Chairman Thompson, and Mrs. New seconded the motion, and all in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting Adjourned