

## **COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS**

March 22, 2012

Germantown Municipal Center

**Neighborhood Associations Represented:** Allenby Meadows, Allenby Westfair, Bromley Foster Ridge, Duntreath, English Meadows, Germantown East, Germantown Heights, Grove Park, Neshoba North, Poplar Estates, Village@ Germantown, Wilsford, Winchester Forest Hill Estates

**Call to Order:** Billy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Welcome and Introductions: First time representative from Allenby Westfair was welcomed, as was Cathy Phillips from the Neighborhood Preservation Commission, and Sarah Patterson from the Commercial Appeal.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 16, 2010 Meeting were approved as written.

**Guest Speaker:** Pam Beasley of the Parks and Recreation Department spoke about the new park being added to the twenty four parks already in Germantown. It will be a Farm Park. This concept was adopted because there is a farm house present on the site. There is an agrarian history to Germantown and it meets the triple standards that Germantown uses when considering a new project of financial sustainability, environmentally friendly, and socially enticing.

There will be plots of land that may be used by families to grow their own produce in a communal way. The goal is to help promote healthy food choices by showing how good local produce can be. It will be educational by teaching how to grow locally and it will make a difference in the community. There is a master design from the Farm Based Education Association about how to grow organic food.

Hopefully it will open this summer by Summer Solstice, June 20<sup>th</sup>. There are plans to have something different to do every day of the week, have some farm animals, have a place for picnics and parties. There is a farm house on the property but it will not be accessible at this time.

Patrick Lawton announced that a \$400,000 grant for the project was obtained by Pam Beasley. There are partnerships with many organizations to help with any further money required because of the emphasis on sustainability and healthy eating. The Park will be located west of Germantown High School with access by the soccer field. There will be short term access from Stout. The area is landlocked by public land on all sides hopefully, some accommodation for access can be reached with Union University.

### **Old Business:**

### **Police report.:**

Lieutenant Wood reported an increase in aggravated assaults in the last quarter with fifteen occurring with a weapon. Most were juvenile and domestic in nature.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Patrick Lawton gave this report. He stated that Germantown stats on crime were the lowest in the state in cities of comparable size. In this year's community survey the number one reason that people live in Germantown is the feeling of safety.

He recapped the Attorney General's opinion that a referendum on May 10<sup>th</sup> will not be legal so it will not occur. The budget for Germantown for fiscal 2013 will be explained in detail at the next CONA meeting. He explained that the Enterprise Fund is separate from the General Fund and is composed of self-supporting areas like trash collection, the Great Hall, utilities, storm water drainage, and the Germantown Athletic Club. This is the last year of the contract between Shelby County and Germantown for ambulance service and the method of continuing service will be one of the things considered in budget discussions.

The City Attorney has been informed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judge that door to door salesmen cannot be prohibited by the City of Germantown. It is an infringement of free speech. Perhaps we can have a do not call list.

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**Special Events Committee Report:**

David Jackson reminded everyone that March 29<sup>th</sup> was the last day to turn in any requests to be on the home tour. The tour will be Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> and there will be fliers to advertise it.

**Neighborhood Services Report:**

Joe Nunes informed us that in the budget for 2013 the fee for Trash remains unchanged. Curbside pickup is at 66% and 80% recycle. There is an estimated increase in savings from recycle of 200%. Some residents have constructed fences without a permit. Remember no fences in the front yard and "if you pick up a hammer call the City first". Those people will illegally constructed fences must remove them.

**Special Events: Sherrye Rhea**

Touch a Truck will be May 5<sup>th</sup> at the library and a child automobile seat inspector will be present also. "Municipal Melodies in May" will start on Friday's at lunch time in the Municipal Park, Material will be presented early about mosquitoes since the winter was so warm. Save paper and do utility bills online. "Gardens of Oakleigh" is turning from private to public. Zoning has been amended so that attended donation centers may be established. This year's Vesta Home Show will be at St James Place, a subdivision off Poplar.

**Announcements/Neighborhood Concerns:**

There were no further announcements or neighborhood concerns.

**Adjournment:**

Billy Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Waltz