

Seminary Hill Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Board of Directors
Meeting of April 18, 2006

The following board members were present.

Jack Sullivan, President ad interim and Treasurer

Joanne Lepanto, Vice-President

Cindy Gurne, Communications Director and Area 4

Laura Vetter, Secretary and Episcopal High School

Lillian Patterson, Area 1

Tom Kerester, Area 2

Dick Hobson, Area 3

Dick Hayes, Area 5

John Nottingham, Area 8

Charles Ablard, At-Large

Bruce McCarthy, At-Large

Lisa Marie Cheney, SHA Representative to the Federation of Civic Associations

Minutes

The March minutes were approved with changes.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Sullivan reported a balance of \$21,703.

Mr. Sullivan reported that a \$700 check was written to VTS for annual meeting expenses.

Regarding renewals of lapsed members, it was reported that 200 letters were sent to lapsed members, with 68 renewals ensuing.

With regard to expenditure items, \$160 was spent for the sound system for the West End School Board Forum. This expense will be partially defrayed by other neighborhood associations.

The expenses related to SHA's website were discussed. It was reported Digital Phenom that a monthly fee of \$65 monthly fee was negotiated with Digital Phenom.

Police Report

Sergeant Bartlett was not present to report. Dick Hayes reported on Sergeant Bartlett's behalf. There have been many car break ins of unlocked cars in our area of unlocked cars.

Area Reports

Area 1

Nothing new to report

Area 2

Tom Kerester reported on real estate transactions in the area.

Area 3

According to Dick Hobson, there are no further developments in the pocket park effort.

Area 4

Cindy Gurne reported on an Earth Day project to clean up Fort Williams Park for Earth Day on Saturday at 1:00 by the sign at Fort Williams Park. She invites everyone to attend. Additionally, she reported that a developer is pursuing a plan to develop homes where the metal homes are located off Duke Street

Area 5

Dick Hayes reported on a house on Ivanhoe Street

Area 6

Pat Lidy reported that Wilson University has calmed down and the overcrowding problem has been resolved.

Area 9

Bruce McCarthy and Joanne Lepanto reported nothing new to report for Area 9.

Carter Flemming reported on the problems with trash collection and asked that any complaints be shared with her.

Program

Planning Alexandria's Future

Jack Sullivan introduced Eileen Fogarty, City Planning Director Alexandria's Planning and Zoning Department.

She shared a publication titled "Rooted in the Past-A Shared Vision of the Future," which details the city's values for planning and development.

Highlights:

- *Preservation of Alexandria's Diverse History and Culture
- *The future of the city is identified in the Strategic Plan and the Area Plans.
- *Neighborhood Preservation
- *Connecting communities with transit
- *King Street/Old Town as Alexandria's Main Street
- *Place population density around transit
- *Eisenhower East
- *Van Dorn Area redevelopment
- *Potential regulations regarding infill development and significant additions/tear downs
- *Quality begets quality
- *Urban, walkable community
- *Conservation/preservation
- *Establish and maintain the "Street wall"
- *Create buildings that respond to the larger urban context
- *Compatibility with existing neighborhoods
- *Quality development, preservation, renovation and infill.

Eileen Fogarty encouraged citizen involvement to encourage quality development from developers.

Ms. Fogarty mentioned interest in redeveloping the site next to the fire station on Seminary Road and Seminary Plaza. A company expressed interest in rezoning and redeveloping 50 acres, which are currently garden apartments into high density apartments, which was rejected by city staff.

Joe Fischer asked about the connector. Ms. Fogarty is under the impression that there are no plans for an Eisenhower connector, except potentially near Van Dorn Street and Edsall Road.

Joanne Lepanto asked about dedicated transit and who the potential users would be. Ms. Fogarty responded that Route 1 transit will follow the dedicated transit already in place in Arlington. Ms. Fogarty suggested pursuing this with George Foote.

Old Business

Update on Seminary Hill Historical Project

Charles Ablard reported no reports from the Area Representatives on development in their areas have been received. Oral histories are currently being transcribed.

Traffic Calming on Pickett Street

Jack Sullivan reported that a meeting will be held April 24th at 7:30. Dick Hobson motioned that Jack Sullivan write a letter in support of a proposal for traffic calming on Pickett Street to reaffirm SHA's commitment. Motion amended to include Colonel Ellis. The motion passed.

Outcome of Candidate Forums

Whole Foods donated \$450 worth of food, but it the event was sparsely attended. The School Board forum was attended by 120 people. On April 19th a City Council candidate forum will be held at Minnie Howard School.

Final Discussion and Action on term limits for SHA Board

Dick Hobson moved that the issue be tabled. Motion passed.

New Business

Chabad Lubavitch Synagogue in the house at the corner of Seminary Road and North Howard Street was raised due to resulting parking problems. A resident raised this as a zoning violation. A school is operated on the site. Employees work on the site. The synagogue's internet site details their activities. SHA would take action based on a zoning and land use issue. Dick Hobson moved that a letter be written to the city to investigate this issue as a zoning violation to Code Enforcement. The motion passed. The neighbor reported that he has contacted Code Enforcement and the staffer said that this a violation. There is concern, because they are expanding their activities. Cindy Gurne motioned that SHA create a position statement on the issue of overcrowding and institutional use of residential sites. Dick Hobson does not believe that SHA can shape a general policy, but instead should defer to zoning regulations.

Attorney, Mr. Gil, requested time at the May meeting to discuss two potential tenants for Alexandria Commons.

Suggestions for May program

Ms. Gurne suggested the environment and open space.

Jack Sullivan suggested having the newly elected school board members share their ideas at our next meeting.

Seminary Plaza is currently underutilized. Jack Sullivan reported that Seminary Forest is being redeveloped. The developer wanted to make the shopping center bigger, purchase the Alexandria Hospital building and lease it back to the hospital. When the hospital rejected this plan, the developer dropped their plans for redevelopment of the site. The plan is that apartment complex will go upscale.

Dick Hobson reported that he is trying to recruit an Area 6 representative.

The Area 9 representative (Bob Coulter's area) was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully,
Laura Vetter
Secretary