

Seminary Hill Association
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2006

The following Board Members were present:

Jack Sullivan, President and Treasurer
Joanne Lepanto, Vice-President
Laura Vetter, Secretary and Episcopal High School
Cindy Gurne, Communications Officer and Area 4
Tom Kersester, Area 2
Dick Hobson, Area 3
Dick Hayes, Area 5
Bruce McCarthy, At-Large
Charles Ablard, At-Large
Carter Fleming, At-Large

Minutes

The April Minutes were distributed by Laura Vetter.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Sullivan reported \$1315 was deposited as a result of the lapsed member mailing.
The current balance is \$22,683.92

Police Report

Sergeant Bartlett reported crime figures year to date.

Program

Mr. Sullivan introduced David Gil of McGuire Woods who is representing the owner of the Alexandria Commons shopping center (JGB Rosenfeld) to discuss new tenants, who would like to occupy space at Alexandria Commons. Dick Hobson recused himself. The proposed uses require an SUP. Tenants would like to locate Joon Rhea, a Tae Kwon school, and JW Tumbles, aimed at kids 7 and under to teach tumbling with the parents involved. Tumbles would be morning use primarily. Joon Rhea would be used primarily in the afternoons. Their locations would be in the second floor of the western end of the shopping center. This issue goes before Planning and Zoning and City Council this summer. There will be no need for additional parking. An SUP is required because these are classified as schools and would go into a general commercial zoned site. Cindy Gurne expressed her support and also expressed her concerns about traffic flow on Duke Street. The maximum enrollment would be 15 students per class. SHA has no opposition to the plan.

Area Reports

Area 2

Tom Kerester reported another house was sold and he reported on problems getting onto Janneys from Kingston.

Area 3

Dick Hobson reported nothing new on Quaker View. He is waiting for an answer from the city on the pocket park proposal. Cindy Gurne recounted a discussion with Barbara Ross regarding concerns with the Quaker View pocket park proposal. On North Early, a property owner is trying to get the city to purchase his property and turn it into a pocket park.

Area 4

Cindy Gurne reported on the Strawberry Run Park Earth Day Clean Up, which was attended by five people. One of the volunteers expressed interest in building a children's playground in Area 4.

Area 5

Dick Hayes reported that the house next to the fire station is looking better. For example, the lawn has been mowed.

Area 9

Jack Sullivan introduced Dave Cavanaugh. Motion made to elect Dave Cavanaugh to serve as Area 9 representative. The motion was seconded and passed. Bob Coulter was thanked for his service.

Episcopal High School

Laura Vetter reported on the artificial turfing of the two athletic fields on the campus.

Update on the Seminary Hill historical project

Charles Ablard reported on two oral history interviews and he requested copies of historic photos.

Connector Update

Jack Sullivan reported on the efforts to reassign the connector funds for other purposes. \$2.8 million has already been taken from the connector fund for other uses (widening Eisenhower Ave and DASH Bus improvements). Connector supporters have objected to this money being removed from the connector funds. SHA has been asked to take a stand on this issue. SHA will write a letter. Dick Hobson agreed to draft a letter to be signed by Jack Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan also said he will speak at the next open mike session of the upcoming City Council meeting. Dick Hobson moved that a letter be written affirming the City Council for removing the money, due to our opposition to the connector to be used for a more worthwhile purpose and opposing efforts to restore the funds. Clover College Park Civic Association has also taken a stand supporting the reallocation of connector funds. The motion passed. The letter will be posted to the website.

Lubavitch Synagogue

Jack Sullivan reported that he has taken this issue up with the city, but the city has done nothing. SHA has asked the city to approach the rabbi about the fact that they appear to be violating some city ordinances. A neighbor described some of the impacts of the

synagogue's activities on the neighbors, such as parking, which has sometimes even blocked the neighbors' driveways. Jack Sullivan explained that churches and synagogues can be located in residential zones, but they must meet certain requirements, i.e. adequate parking. Joanne Lepanto explained that after the city approaches a homeowner about violations, the homeowner must be given a certain amount of time to rectify the violations. Jack Sullivan believes we should wait to see what actions are taken by the city. Carter Fleming urged SHA to demonstrate that we take code enforcement violations seriously.

Traffic Calming

Bruce McCarthy reported that he is waiting to hear from the Traffic Board regarding whether Colonel Ellis, lower Fort Williams Parkway and North Pickett Street make the cut for traffic calming. A discussion of traffic calming ensued. Sergeant Bartlett explained some of the negatives of speed bumps, such as slower response times and less enforcement. Joanne Lepanto requested information regarding the speeding and tailgating tickets issued. Sergeant Bartlett explained that almost no tickets are issued for tailgating unless an accident is involved.

Outreach Activities

Cindy Gurne is lining up volunteers to confirm the data to be included in the directory and to ask each member's permission to be included in the directory. Cindy Gurne suggested that maybe the Area Representatives could work on this project.

New Business

Presidential Succession

Jack Sullivan raised the issue of planning for next year's president, specifically Joanne Lepanto.

Laura Vetter suggested that Joanne Lepanto be involved with the selection of the next Vice President.

Calvert Homes Development

Jack reported that a developer has bought some of the small metal houses off of Duke Street and Strawberry Run with the plan to build large homes on the site. A discussion of the stream ensued. The proposed plan is to tear down the houses and build a dozen very large homes in the area of Donaldson and Taft Streets. The homes will affect the run-off of the creek and visual impact concerns. SHA will stay on top of this issue.

Creation of Task Forces for Development Areas

Pat Lidy, Dick Hayes and Bruce McCarthy have expressed an interest in serving on the Kenmore Plaza task force. John Nottingham will be asked to join and Dick Hayes will chair the Kenmore Committee.

Jack Sullivan reported that INOVA has sold the medical building to the same company (WREIT) that owns the Bradlee shopping center.

The Landmark and West Eisenhower Task Force will be composed of Dave Cavanaugh. The All Sports Facility Committee, which includes Jack Sullivan, who will check on the status of this issue.

Future Meeting Dates

June 20th

No July Meeting

Meet in August Tuesday the 15th

Joanne Lepanto suggested we set a specific meeting schedule possibly returning to the second Thursday of every month.

Other New Business

Cindy Gurne suggested new meeting topics such as environmental and open space concerns. She also suggested having the School Board Area B representatives attend future meetings to discuss their plans for the schools. Discussion ensued. Budget issues were discussed as a future meeting topic.

Dick Hayes asked about who owns the Kenmore shopping center. Dick Hayes reported on recent crime incidents. He is concerned that the Alexandria Gazette Packet is not reporting crime incidents, such as the ones, which he described.

Announcements

Jack Sullivan announced Alexandria and the Arts will be held on Saturday May 20th 10AM-11:30 at the William Ramsey Recreation Center.

Jack Sullivan read a letter thanking SHA for its Earth Day donation.

The April minutes were approved with changes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Vetter

Secretary