**Minutes of the March 2002 Seminary Hill Association Board Meeting**
 **March 7, 2002**

**The monthly meeting of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc.
was held on March 7, 2002 at the
Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia.**

**The following SHA officers, directors and past SHA presidents were present:**

**Bill Dickinson, President Joe Gerard, Vice President
Jack Sullivan, Treasurer R. Mark Quave, Secretary
Lillian Patterson, Area 1 Tom Kerester, Area 2
Dick Hobson, Area 3 Dick Hayes, Area 5
Carol Maxwell, Area 6 Pat Lidy, Area 7
Frank Putzu, Area 8 Buck Coates, Area 9
Bruce McCarthy, At Large Joe Fisher, past President
Joanne LePanto, past President**

**Bill Dickinson called the Board meeting to order at 8:00 pm.**

**The February 2002 SHA Board Meeting minutes (previously posted in draft on the SHA web-site) were approved by a unanimous vote. Jack Sullivan provided the Treasurer’s Report. Currently, the SHA has $6,870.94 in the corporate savings account and $4,889.66 in the corporate checking account. Sgt. Jamie Bartlett provided the Police Report. There are no suspects in the January burglary of the Hendrickson home on Quaker Lane. Sgt. Bartlet provided the following year-to-date, SHA-area crime comparisons:**

**Types of Crime      2001         2002**

**Robbery              2             0
Burglary             5             3
Assaults            11             4
Auto theft           3             1

Additional notes from Sgt. Bartlet:**

* **Most burglaries occur at residences during daytime hours**
* **Police are available to provide residents with a free home security evaluation.**
* **At our next meeting, Sgt. Bartlet will provide SHA with a synopsis
of traffic intercepts on Quaker Lane.**

**Area Reports**

**Area 1 - The TC Williams scoreboard has been painted, and the school system will plant trees when the weather warms, Lillian Patterson reported. The neighbors are satisfied with the arrangements, thus far.**

**Area 2 - Tom Kerester reported the property at 4555 Seminary Road next to the Fire Station is on the market for $1.2 million. This is an overly large lot with R-8 zoning suggesting it may prove attractive to a developer. Access for more than one house off of Seminary Road may prove problematic. Dick Hayes remarked that the house might have been reconfigured for multi-family use.**

**Area 3 - Dick Hobson received correspondence from Equity Homes acknowledging his letter. Mr. Hobson had written Equity regarding outstanding issues (i.e. fencing and shrubs) at the Dartmouth Road development and the developer’s failure to comply with agreements previously decided upon with adjacent property owners.**

**Area 4 - According to Dan Kelly, apparently all the Battery Heights’ properties now under construction have been sold. This is the property previously known as the Goodman tract. It is still uncertain if Equity Homes and/or the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust have recorded with the City the agreed upon open space easement for the forested portion of that property. Bill Dickinson will investigate.**

**Area 8 - The newly installed light on Seminary Lane adjacent to the Francis Hammond Middle School is set to green unless tripped by pedestrian or vehicular traffic. It was the understanding of Joe Gerard and Dick Hayes that the original agreement with the City was the light would be set to flash yellow except when school bus activity occurred. The default to green situation that now exists is not idea because, for instance, cars making a right hand turn on red out of the Seminary Forest apartment complex trip the light to red 10 seconds after the car has exited the area. Joe Gerard will again follow up with Alexandria’s T&ES to ascertain what is going on.**

**Area 9 - Buck Coates said neighbors want to see that brush and debris are removed in Fort Williams Park to make the area more attractive and natural and decrease it’s appeal for non-social activities.**

**Old Business**

**Burke Branch Library**

* **The library reopened on March 4th.**
* **The reopening ceremony is slated for April 20th.**
* **The library is still seeking selective book contributions. See the SHA website for the listing of needed books. Financial donations to the Burke Branch Friends are being sought.**
* **The library has a meeting room available by reservation for public use.**

**1100 Francis Hammond Parkway**

* **Frank Putzu did not join this conversation, except to remind the Board that he is a member of the BZA, which will hear the appeal from the adjoining neighbors.**
* **Neighbors have appealed the issuance by the City for a building permit for the Lot 1 (the larger lot).**
* **The City has rejected the developer application for a building permit on Lot 2 due to a resource protection area and other setback restrictions. In combination these appear to make construction of a send house problematic.**
* **This matter will be heard by the Board of Zoning appeals at their April, 2002 meeting**

**Eisenhower Avenue Connector**

**On February 27th, VDOT and the City hosted an informational event for the community. Dick Hobson and Bill Dickinson attended. Dick reported to the Board that the City appears to be headed toward a build decision (versus a non-build decision) on one connector, and that the leading two options would connect on the eastern end either at Bluestone (the least expensive) or Roth. Even if steps were taken to divert traffic away from Cambridge, north/south flow would move back up Quaker or onto Taylor Run Parkway west. In either case, the volumes of traffic shunted through the west end would be destructive to the hill community. President Dickinson with the Board’s approval appointed a task force, headed by Dick Hobson, to assert SHA interests in this matter. The members of the task force include: Bruce McCarthy, Joanne Lepanto, Joe Gerard, and Jack Sullivan. The purpose of the Task Force will be to investigate the factual basis of the old Bluestone connector controversy, identify what SHA options are, and develop a plan of action to defeat threatening connector roads.**

**Ivor Place**

* **Bill Dickinson provided background.**
* **Tom Kerester has determined the ownership of the pertinent parcels in the area.**
* **Pat Lidy will endeavor to contact the current owners and attempt to coordinate a meeting with City planners.**

**SHA Membership**

* **Bill Dickinson announced that membership is still short of the November 2001 level. Persons who were members in 2001 and who have not rejoined for 2002 should be highest priority.**
* **Bill Dickinson agreed to send Buck Coates 2001/2002 membership roster.**
* **As requested, Tom Kerester supplied homeowner contact information to area representatives as a tool to be used for recruitment Dick Hayes provided a model recruitment letter to be used by area representatives. Bill Dickinson advised that all expenses associated with the recruitment drive (e.g. postage) should be provided to Jack Sullivan for repayment from SHA funds.**

**Traffic Calming**

* **Buck Coates reported that he was having difficulty determining how much funding the City has earmarked for this program this year.**
* **Buck Coates provided a report on the basic procedures in place for citizens to solicit the City for traffic calming measures.**
* **Buck Coates will solicit input from the various areas as to what sites warrant traffic calming devices. He will also speak to Council Member Speck about the possibility of traffic calming devices on Quaker Lane. (It was noted by several persons that the speed of traffic in this 35 mph area is often in excess of 70 mph.)**
* **Buck Coates will arrange a meeting with Rich Baier.**

**SHA Web Site**

**Joe Fisher will meet with Joe Posch, our Webmaster, to arrange for "house cleaning" and revamping of the SHA web site. Part of the procedure will entail the archiving of dated materials.**

**New business**

**Endorsement of the By-Laws of the Federation of Alexandria Civic Association**

**Copies of the current and proposed new by-laws were provided to all Board members. The primary question is how many member civic associations should agree on a position before the Federation adopts it. Jack Sullivan will be working with Mark Feldhiem of Old Town to work out an acceptable compromise. This agenda item was tabled for action in April.**

**Second Presbyterian Church**

**Bill Dickinson expressed concern that the small of this church, which has about 5 acres, zoned R-20, may foretell closure and land development. He indicated that according to a church elder, 2nd. Presbyterian Church will be meeting with the other Presbyterian churches in the City to discuss the future of this particular congregation. At an appropriate time, the neighborhood will be asked their views particularly regarding the use or destruction of the church manse.**

**I-95 Carpool Lane Exit onto Seminary Road**

**Joe Gerard reported that Rich Baier, TES, will recommend to City Council latter this month that the City petition VDOT to have this plan formally removed from their master plan. The Board voted unanimously to express support to Mr. Baier’s position and Richard Dressner with Mr. Gerard will represent SHA’s position to Council.**

**Pornography Site Ordnance**

**Frank Putzu reported that this ordinance appears stalled in City Council with the needed ordinance drafted and field investigation completed. The Board passed a motion unanimously to urge City Council to bring this matter to public discussion and consideration. Frank Putzu and Joe Gerard will draft a letter for Bill Dickinson’s consideration. Bill will follow up with key City Council members to get this matter moving.**

**Hospital Expansion Oversight Committee**

* **Board and members discussed the need to establish a committee to oversee the Hospital’s expansion once it begins.**
* **In a separate matter, it was noted by several SHA members, that they have encountered an increasing number of concerns and complaints about the quality of medical treatment at Inova Alexandria Hospital – particularly the Emergency Room. There will be further discussion of this matter and what SHA’s role (if any) should be at the April SHA meeting.**
* **Joe Fisher will draft a letter detailing the outstanding actions resulting from the SHA/Hospital agreement that are the responsibility of the hospital. Bill Dickinson will sign the letter on behalf of the SHA.**

**The Board passed a motion to invite Delegate Moran to speak at the April 2nd SHA Board Meeting.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**

**R. Mark Quave, Secretary**