**SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.**

MONTHLY MEETING

10 DECEMBER 2009

The meeting was called to order by incoming President Nancy Jennings at 7:30 PM

Treasurer Jack Sullivan reported a balance in the association's coffers of *$29,619.46,* with 131 paying members, including 15 new ones. There was a concern expressed that the Burke Library staff might be reduced, as City council is short $43 million and looking around. SHA member Dick Hobson serves on the Library Board.

Area 2 rep. Carter Flemming reported on a good meeting with T. C. Williams High School officials. An increase e in train whistles was noted, especially at night. Trains are required to sound their whistles when someone is near the tracks, Jack Sullivan explained. Area 6 rep. Glenn Eugster reported on a meeting with the Fort Ward Park City group kick-off meeting, noting that $50,000 had been allocated for restoration of 31 graves. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has also furnished $'15,000 for the project,

APD liaison and deputy chief Hassan Aden reported 130 serious crimes in the city last year, a 43-year low, although the Seminary Hill area was up a little. (Hide those GPSs in your vehicles) A victim of a larceny at the Alexandria Pastry Shop described how her purse was stolen and credit cards used by a gang on the East coast. Member Sharon Annear noted the need to improve the lnova Alexandria Hospital cell phone capacity.

Featured speaker Faroll Hamer of the City Planning and Zoning Division, accompanied by Dirk Geratz noted that the City does not do "piecemeal rezoning," in reference to Seminary Plaza. Joanne Lepanto asked: "Why is the City encouraging development when there's a traffic nightmare coming??" At that point Vice-Mayor Kerry Donley arrived. There ensued an extensive, wide-ranging discussion of the Small Area Plan and whether Seminary Hill could or should separate from it. Ms. Hamer offered to meet with SHA reps. anytime on relevant issues.

Moving on, President Jennings said only 30 out of 40 SHA Annual Meeting signs had been returned. Joe Fischer was unanimously elected to "at large" SHA Board membership.

The sum of $100 was voted in favor of Immanuel Church-On-The Hill where the SHA has held monthly meetings for years.

Glenn Eugster agreed to lead the Seminary Hill history project, with Dick Hobson and Bruce McCarthy volunteering support. It was reported that there are problems with the Seminary Hill website.

Under new business, Joanne Lepanto, co-chairman of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations and outgoing SHA President, noted that the Federation holds meetings the last Wednesday of every month and urged all interested parties to attend. There is a move toward streetcars on the streets of Alexandria, which was discussed withgeneral approval.

A discussion of BRAC-133 and the Winkler Property ensued, with Vice-Mayor Donley asserting that locating a huge Federal building at Seminary and 1-395 was "a mistake." (No one challenged that analysis!) An issue is off-ramps from 1--395 that might violate the Winkler Preserve. (An overflow crowd opposing such an off-ramp proposal attended the following Saturday's City Council meeting including Joanne Lepanto, Christina Lytle and children, and numerous others from the West End.) The question of possibly using Sanger Avenue for access to the BRAC site was brought up. "Our position should be one of flexibility;" Mr. Donley concluded.

Jack Sullivan moved that the Association support the original proposal re: access alternatives to the BRAC site, but the motion failed

Access proposals A, B and #6 were proposed by Mr. Hobson, seconded by Bruce McCarthy. The motion carried. “Seminary Hill Association, Inc., urges the Alexandria City Council to persevere for a solution that improves access to and from I-395 into the BRAC-133 site and Mark Center, so as to minimize impacts on the Seminary Road interchange and Alexandria’s local streets. The City should ask VDOT to explore more alternatives that give access to the Mark Center from I-395, such as Duke Street, Sanger Avenue, and north of Seminary Road. The City should ask VDOT to explore improving traffic flow on I-395 by adding another lane in the general purpose lanes on I-395 between Seminary Road and Duke Street on both the north and south sides and also widening the Seminary Road exit from the south. The improvements should protect the Winkler Preserve to the greatest extent possible.” The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Bruce E. McCarthy, Recording Secretary