**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**14 January 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by the President, Nancy Jennings, at Immanuel Church On-The-Hill. President Jennings made the following announcements:

1. A list of meetings and flyers available.
2. The School Board approved the Capital Improvement Program and enrollment numbers.
3. Directions for using Call, Click and Connect to contact City agencies and personnel.

**Police Report**: There were 36 offenses in the past month. These were mostly minor cases and there were no assault’s and battery’s. Sgt. Houston said there was a carjacking at Park Terrace and the vehicle was recovered in Prince George’s County, Maryland. He then answered several questions from the audience.

**Tom Soapes:** Area 5 Rep. Jack Sullivan introduced Tom Soapes, who is a candidate for an opening on the City of Alexandria Planning Commission. Tom gave an overview of his background and experience and closed by asking for support for his candidacy.

**Minutes**: The December Minutes (with a minor amendment) were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Joanne Lepanto, Treasurer, reported that there was $31,506.84 in the SHA account. There was some discussion as to whether the regular report also contained the “connector fund”.

**Area Reports**: Carter Flemming, Area 2, attended the TCW community meeting. She discussed the plans for the ‘upgraded’ TCW stadium which includes lights for the field. This issue is not definite yet but the Alexandria School Board is proceeding ahead with the plan. Tom Fulton, Area 6, reported that the excavation at Fort Ward Park has been completed and no graves were discovered. Joanne Lepanto, Past President, reported that there were numerous potholes on Fort Williams Parkway. Joe Fischer, At Large, discussed the proposed development behind his house off of Quaker Lane. Jim Durham, At Large, discussed some potential plans to develop land behind Temple Beth El that might include building up to 5 new houses.

**Program:** Mr. Michael McGurk, along with Susan Shaw, a representative from VDOT, made a comprehensive presentation concerning Transurban’s plan on the I-395 express lanes extension through Alexandria into Arlington. The two main objections from the SHA Board were safety issues and ‘choke point’ problems.

* The present I-395 HOV configuration will not be widened, instead, the two lanes will be narrowed and converted to three lanes substantially reducing the shoulders. As a result, and especially with bus traffic, the new lanes will be too close for safety and will also reduce the space for emergency vehicles.
* The current HOV lanes are often clogged in the morning and restriping the highway to three lanes will only increase traffic with the resultant increase in traffic at the choke point. Michael said they were “working on a solution.”

Overall, the questions from the audience were mostly skeptical of the proposed extension; however; VDOT plans to move ahead on the project.

**Old Business:**

* **Patrick Henry School Expansion Update:** Mary Biegel, SHA representative, provided an excellent update on the recent meeting concerning the expansion. She said the main issue still boils down as to whether the proposed recreation center would be too big at the expense of outdoor recreation space. Jim Durham also provided comments on the meeting. Overall, the Department of Parks and Recreation had no real good answers on anything. There was considerable discussion by the Board on this issue.
* **SHA Letter to the City regarding Green Space and the Patrick Henry Expansion**: The proposed letter was approved with several minor changes.
* **Make Our City Safe Project:** Jim Durham gave an update on the West End Transit (Corridor C) Plan.
* **Eisenhower West Small Area Plan:** Jim Durham provided an update.
* **Election of New Area 7 Representative:** Joanne Lepanto introduced Gladys Pettiford who was subsequently approved by the Board as the new Area 7 Representative.
* **Election of At Large Board Members:** Bill Goff was nominated and approved as an At Large member of the Board. At the same time, Joe Fischer and Jim Durham were “re-elected” to serve as At Large Board members. President Jennings also announced that she would advertise whenever there is an opening on the Board and request a short resume with their background, experience and interests. This would help current Board members who may not be familiar with a proposed nominee.

**New Business:**

* The Board unanimously approved endorsing Bill Dickinson for another term on the Board of Architectural Review.
* Frank Putzu reported that the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations supports Mayor Silberberg’s plan for an ethics pledge, code of conduct, and ethics commission.
* Joanne Lepanto discussed “signage” issues within the City of Alexandria.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Richard Hayes, Recorder

**Board Members present**: President Jennings, Carter Flemming, Joanne Lepanto, Dick Hayes, Jack Sullivan, Tom Fulton, Frank Putzu, Mike Barbour, Joe Fischer, Jim Durham and Christina Holt

**Others in attendance:** Sgt. Houston, Mary Biegel, William Wannisky, Frances and Calvin Terrell, David Gortner, Gladys Pettiford, Bill Goff, and Carolyn Griglione.