**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**10 March 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:

* There is a list of meetings and other “flyer” announcements available.
* The new city web site needs help.

**Police Report**: There were 52 offenses in the past month. The offenses included 6 for alcohol related, 2 for mental issues, 4 for drug offenses, 2 for grand larceny, 10 for larceny, and the rest were mostly minor cases. There were no assaults and battery’s.

**Minutes**: The February Minutes were approved with one edit.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Joanne Lepanto, Treasurer, reported the SHA account totals $31,649.59. The Board approved a payment of $110 for SHA web site services. The Board also decided to vote at the next meeting on donating $125 to Immanuel Church on the Hill as a token gift for allowing SHA to use their facility for our meetings.

**Area Reports**: Carter Flemming, Area 2, said they are waiting on the School Board to award a contract for the design for the TCW stadium. Dick Hobson, Area 3, reported that City Council had appointed a commission to study the street sign signage concerning Confederate names. Tom Fulton, Area 6, reported that the Fort Ward Park Advisory Group will meet on 30 March, and he is not ‘happy’ with the way the City staff is ‘running’ the meetings and agenda. This prompted a general discussion on the role of City staff in the various City Commissions. Jim Durham, At-Large, said that City staff has been told by the City Manager to get agendas and reports/results out quicker. Joe Fischer, At-Large, said there was another auto accident at Trinity. Heather Zdancewicz, Virginia Theological Seminary, said that construction materials for the new dormitory are now being stored in a field on Quaker Lane. Christina Holt, EHS, said they were working on covering equipment on the W. Braddock Road side of their property.

**Old Business:**

**Make Our City Safe Project:** Jim Durham gave an update on the project. Fines will be less than we desired and the City will review the whole project in 6 months. Meanwhile, the speed on Seminary Road from Library Lane to Quaker Lane and from Quaker lane to Duke Street will go from 35 mph to 25 mph on 26 March.

**Patrick Henry School Expansion Update:** Mary Biegel, SHA representative, provided an update concerning the expansion. Parking has become a big issue. Neighbors want more parking to keep ‘visitors’ away from street parking. There followed a general discussion by the Board about the whole project, in particular, how to minimize the impact on students having to be moved around and which of the three proposed options might be selected. Most people seem to like Option A which includes a 3-story building at a 50 foot height. That option has numerous benefits.

**Proposal to nominate Tom Soapes for a vacancy on the City Planning Commission:** Jack Sullivan recommended that SHA not endorse Tom Soapes as a candidate for an opening on the City of Alexandria Planning Commission because SHA has not had a policy of endorsing personnel for office who live outside the SHA boundaries. As a result, the earlier proposal was tabled.

**New Business:**

City Manager proposed 2 budget increases; namely, a 3.46% increase to the General Fund and 1% increase to the All Funds Budget. Home owners will pay for the increases by higher property assessments along with the rate increases. The new assessments do not include short sales or foreclosures when calculating the value of the properties. There was also a big increase in the budget for the Alexandria City Public School System. What followed was a general discussion by the Board over these budget increases.

**Other:** President Jennings announced that she will invite all members of the ACPS School Board to a meeting on 19 April to discuss school issues.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Richard Hayes, Recorder

**Board Members present**: President Jennings, Carter Flemming, Joanne Lepanto, Dick Hayes, Lillian Patterson, Dick Hobson, Richard Hunt, Jack Sullivan, Tom Fulton, Frank Putzu, Joe Fischer, Jim Durham, Bill Goff, Christina Holt, and Heather Zdancewicz.

**Others in attendance:** Sgt. Houston, Mary Biegel, Stacey Butler, Ed Nelson, and Carolyn Griglione.