**Monthly Board Meeting**

**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**12 May 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Nancy Jennings at Immanuel Church On-The-Hill. President Jennings announced there is a list of meetings and other “flyer” announcements available.

**Police Report**: There were 48 offenses in the past month. The offenses were mostly minor. The APD is now enforcing the new 25 MPH speed limit on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane.

**Minutes**: The April Minutes as well as the Special April Board Meeting Minutes were approved after minor corrections.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Joanne Lepanto, Treasurer, reported that there was $31,486.84 in the SHA account as of 1 May.

**Area Reports**: Area 2, Carter Flemming, reported that the TCW Advisory Group meeting has been delayed until June; Area 3, Dick Hobson, reported that the speed limit changes on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane are doing fine; Area 9, Mike Barbour, said there is lots of neighborhood opposition regarding the City’s plan for striping lanes and painting bike lane stripes; and Bill Goff, At Large, said a track meet was recently held at TCW with no notification to the neighbors.

**Program**: Ms. Hillary Orr, from the Alexandria Department of Transportation & Environmental Services addressed the City’s Complete Streets Program with emphasis on the King Street “Diet” and resurfacing of Fort Williams Parkway.

**The Complete Streets Program** is designed to make the streets safe and efficient for all people. When the City plans to resurface a major street, they hold public-outreach open-door meetings with the neighbors to ascertain what changes and improvements are desired.

The plan for the **King Street Road Diet** is to reduce the 4-lane road for vehicle traffic by making it a 2-lane road with bike lanes and turn lanes at major intersections between the intersections of King Street with W. Braddock Road and Janney’s Lane. This proposal is known as Option 3. The City says that all safety issues would be resolved with this option. Tom Fulton, Area 6, said it appears to him that the City’s Complete Streets Program is more like Social Engineering. An overall discussion followed by both SHA Board Members and some King Street neighbors; some were supportive but others were against the proposal.

The plan for the **Fort Williams Parkway Resurfacing** project proposes to provide striping for some parking spaces as well as striping for bike lanes. A Seminary Ridge resident indicated that many Fort Williams Parkway residents don’t want “paint” on their street. There was a lively discussion by all concerned at the meeting and Hillary Orr said she would make sure that City staff is made aware of the neighbors’ concerns.

**Old Business:**

**Tabled Motion on the King Street Road Diet:** A motion by Joanne Lepanto, made at the March meeting of not supporting the project, was taken off the table. Basically, SHA is now at “Ground Zero” – no support and no opposition.

**Status of Joint Letter with Clover-College Park and West Taylor Run:** Jim Durham, At Large, said that they were still drafting a letter asking for a comprehensive traffic survey and a citizen task force to implement it. A proposal was made to expand the area under consideration to reach further west to Beauregard Street. If a consensus is reached, SHA may have to approve the letter via email. Mayor Silberberg, who was in attendance, said the 35 to 25 mph speed reduction seems to be working well. She observed that there has been an incredible increase in traffic in that area with many cars having Maryland license plates.

**Patrick Henry Expansion:** Mary Biegel, SHA representative, gave a comprehensive update on the project. President Jennings discussed a letter from Sissy Walker who said the major problem is “process.” No new meetings of the Advisory Board have been planned. After a discussion of the issue, President Jennings said she would draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council stating our reservations with the process. Of note, the request for an auditorium at the school has been cancelled due to cost constraints as well as it would delay completion of the project.

**City Strategic Plan FY 2017 – 2022:** Radhika Mohan from City Staff is scheduled to attend the June 9 meeting for an overview update.

**Administrative Special Use Permits (SUP’s):** We hope to have Sara Brandt, an Urban Planner in Planning & Rezoning, attend the June SHA meeting for an update. Joanne Lepanto, Past President, will be the SHA point of contact for this issue.

**New Business:**

**Budget Increases:** President Jennings listed the new increases recently passed by City Council including a 4.5% increase to the General Fund, a 1.9% increase to all funds, the ACPS will get a 3.9% increase over current funding, Firefighters will get a pay increase of 2.5%, and there are many fee increases.

**Long Term Control Plan for the City’s Combined Sewer System:** Jack Sullivan, Area 5, provided an update on this long time problem. Mayor Silberberg said the City is taking a proactive approach on this issue.

**Artist’s Concern about Leases at the Torpedo Factory:** The artists are concerned about the City’s plan for leases and possible increases in rents. There was a short discussion but no further action on the part of SHA is planned.

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

Richard Hayes, Recorder

**Board Members present**: Nancy Jennings, Carter Flemming, Joanne Lepanto, Dick Hayes, Lillian Patterson, Dick Hobson, Jack Sullivan, Tom Fulton, Mike Barbour, Joe Fischer, Jim Durham, Bill Goff, and Christina Holt.

**Others in attendance:** Mayor Allison Silberberg, Sgt. Lemuel Houston, Mary Biegel, Gwen Paulson, Ted and Carol Monson, Michael Michaelis, Judy Cooper, Steve Tuttle, Carolyn Griglione, Beverly Mullins, Calvin and Frances Terrell, and several others who did not sign the attendance sheet, including Michael Wayne, Harriett McCune, and Marianne Coates.