**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**13 October 2016**

**Monthly Board Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by 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
* Please sign in
* Verizon FIOS appears to be making its way to Fairlington – main feeder line has been installed but it will take 90 days to reach homes.

**Police Report** – Sgt. Lee Houston was unable to attend so Officer Dougherty reported. There were 140 calls for service last month; 29 were important and the rest were minor. There were four automobile accidents, but he did not have the traffic ticket count for Quaker or Seminary Roads. Residents are reminded that the holiday season is approaching and to look out for thievery from cars (hide valuables and lock vehicles). He recommended installing motion detector lights on driveways rather than just leaving house lights on all night.

**Sheriff’s Report** – Captain Joe Pankey is the new liaison to SHA. He gave a short presentation on his background.

**Minutes** – the September minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Joanne Lepanto reported that there was $30,966.84 in the SHA treasury.

**Area Reports** – Frank Putzu, Area 8, explained the operation of the red/yellow light in front of Francis Hammond Middle School. Basically, it is a red light during morning and afternoon ‘drop off’s’ of students (7:30-8:30 and 3:30-4:30) and a flashing yellow at all other times; Joe Fischer, At Large, reported that the builder of the homes at the corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane has requested a change to the SUP limit on the height of a house they want to build. Heather Zdancewicz reported the building of the dormitories for married students is almost complete, it is two months behind schedule but on budget!

**Program:**

Michael McGurk from Transurban Corporation and Amanda Baxter from VDOT gave a presentation on the I-395 Express Lane and the new Eads Street interchange. There were lots of questions and answers as the project appears to ‘dead end’ at the 14th Street bridge which is could result in significant traffic backups. The bridge is owned by the District of Columbia.

SHA Board member Jack Sullivan made a presentation about the City staff proposal for a fee to fund required storm water costs – sometimes called a ‘rain tax’. There was considerable discussion about this issue. Basically, it boils down to whether it should be funded by an increase in real estate taxes or a fee. Supposedly, there are advantages and disadvantages to both methods. Payment with real estate tax money allows for income tax deductions but would allow the City to easily raise the rate to cover its costs. A fee based cost would encompass homes, buildings, and non-profit properties, such as schools and churches. Although State law does not allow for exemptions, opinions were voiced that the ‘bill’ for the non-profits would be so large that basically it wouldn’t happen. Jack Sullivan proposed that SHA support the fee structure vice the real estate tax option in a motion. The Board agreed to hold off on this motion until the November meeting when more information would be available.

**Old Business:**

**Patrick Henry Expansion** – the School Board and ACPS chose site plan A1 because it was cheaper but now it has been determined that the cost for A1 will be greater than site plan C1. The next steps in the process include an Advisory Group meeting (no date set yet), the proposal will go to the Planning Commission in December, final site plan selection in January, construction to start in April with a completion date set in order to start school in the Fall of 2018.

**Program for the Annual Meeting** – there was a discussion about moving the SHA Annual Meeting to December to accommodate our District B School Board members who were not available for a November meeting. This would involve a change to the SHA Bylaws. It was decided to retain the 10 November date for the Annual Meeting and change the program from school issues to concerns about the storm water cost proposal. The School Board members could then attend a special meeting in December.

**New Business:**

President Jennings discussed the need for a letter to the School Board regarding redistricting of school boundaries. A proposed letter to the School Board will indicate that SHA strongly supports Options 4 and 5. After some discussion, it was decided to send the letter to the School Board.

President Jennings discussed a SHA letter to the School Board concerning the proposed TCW Advisory Committee. She asked Board members for assistance in drafting the appropriate SHA response.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:53 PM.

Richard Hayes, Recorder

**Board Members present**: President Jennings, Vice President Carter Flemming, Joanne Lepanto, Dick Hayes, Dick Hobson, Richard Hunt, Jack Sullivan, Tom Fulton, Gladys Pettiford, Frank Putzu, Mike Barbour, Joe Fischer, Jim Durham, Bill Goff, and Heather Zdancewicz.

**Others in attendance:** Harriett McCune, Beth Chase, Captain Joe Pankey, T&ES Lalit Sharma, Michael McGurk from Transurban Corporation, VDOT Amanda Baxter and Mike Spanner, and two officers from the Alexandria Police Department.