**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

***Monthly Board of Director’s Meeting***

Thursday, May 11th 2017 at 7:30 PM

Parish House, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

**Announcements:** President Jennings asked everyone to please sign in and reminded everyone that the Alexandria Spring Clean-up for special trash will be on Saturday, 13 May.

**Police Report:** Sgt. Houston was not available but his substitute, Officer Marcus Downey, reported that the Alexandria Police Department (APD) is in the process of installing a new crime data base system and crime statistics should be available at the next SHA meeting. He also reported on the automobile crash involving a fatality at the corner of Quaker Lane and Duke Street.

**Sheriff’s Report:** Chief Joe Pankey provided an update on National Police Week, including the expected additional traffic in our area.

**Program: A discussion with the new APD Chief Michael Brown**

Chief Brown introduced himself and said he plans to visit all 102 civic associations in Alexandria. So far, he has met with 48. He noted that the new crime data system called RMS should be ready in the next 30 days and then opened the floor for questions. Most of the questions revolved around speeding, bus and truck traffic on North Early Street. Chief Brown said we will work those issues and remind APD officers to be observant of the traffic situation on that street. Other topics included:

* *An increase in crime activity in the West End*. Chief Brown said the APD is aware of it and is working the issues.
* *An ‘end date’ for a report on the reduced speed to 25 mph on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane*. Chief Brown said no date has been set yet.
* *APD officers are not always obeying the traffic rules*. Chief Brown said all APD officers are expected to obey traffic rules except when on emergency type calls; not all of then mandate sirens and flashing lights.
* *Gang violence in Alexandria*. Chief Brown said the APD is are aware of it and is working with local law enforcement departments in the region. He noted that there is not that much gang activity in Alexandria.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the April meeting were approved after some minor amendments.

**Treasurer Report:** Joanne Lepanto was absent but sent in a report that, after payments were made to the web service, the SHA balance was $31,147.83 as of 1 May 2017.

**Area Reports:** Jack Sullivan, Area 5, reported that Alexandria Hospital held their annual employee picnic at the Hospital with no complaints; the music was more subdued than last year when neighbors complained.

**Old Business:**

***Stuart’s Walk Development***: Loren Needles, whose property is adjacent to this project, remains concerned that it will disturb the marine clay in that area and cause problems for him and other homeowners. He asked Seminary Hill residents to let him know if they have had problems with marine clay and had to shore up structures on their land. He is putting this information onto a map. Problems with marine clay are common in the SHA area. The owner of the property, Keating Carrne, expressed her frustration with the process of selling this parcel. The project is scheduled for the Planning Commission on July 6 but will likely shift to the fall.

***Central Alexandria Traffic Study***: Jim Durham, SHA board member-at-large, said the City has hired a contractor to collect the required data for the traffic study.

***Construction of the I-395 express lanes***: This project will commence in July with a target end date of fall 2019. A third lane will be added in the existing center lanes and the HOV lanes will become toll express lanes. The Eads Street intersection at the Pentagon will be improved to handle the extra lane of traffic, and sound walls may be built if residents vote for them.

**New Business:**

***Fairlington Presbyterian Church affordable housing proposal***: The Church members voted to sell a portion of their property to a developer who plans to build a 4-story condo/apartment type building with up to 81 units. The City will be providing $4M to the developer and $1.3M in tax credits per year for the next 30 years. A parking reduction to 60 spaces is being requested and the additional families will result in more overcrowding at MacArthur Elementary School. The project will require a DSUP.

Neighbors, particularly on Menokin Drive and North Early Street, are opposed to the development. There was considerable discussion of problems with the proposed development. The Church has invited neighbors to a meeting on 23 May for a more thorough explanation of the proposed development. At the conclusion of the discussion, the affected neighbors asked for SHA support to oppose the measure. Frank Putzu, a SHA Board member and lawyer, volunteered to be the liaison between the neighbors and SHA.

***Comments on the City property tax increase***: Alexandria now has one of the highest tax bases in Northern Virginia. Jack Sullivan, SHA Board member, gave his opinion of the higher tax (very much opposed). He also commented on the financiering of a remedy for the storm-water runoff that will now be funded by a ‘fee’ as opposed to a ‘tax’. The City’s storm-water tax passed previously will NOT be rolled back but will go into the general fund. The new fee is not deductible on individual Federal Income Tax filings.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 PM

**Richard J. Hayes, Recorder**

**Attendees:** President Jennings, Carol Johnson, Richard Hunt, Jack Sullivan, Jim Rowley, Frank Putzu, Joe Fischer, and Jim Durham.

**Others in Attendance:** Officer Marcus Downey, Chief Pankey, Calvin & Frances Terrell, Carolyn Griglione, Mark Pedley, Babette Smith, Keating Carrne, Christine & Sean Miller, Adam & Naomi James, Esikea & Mrs. Helgescn, Linda & Steve App, Richelle McCarthy, Beth Chase, Susan Cole, Steve & Alicia Sismens, Elizabeth Wright, Justin Sparrow, Mary Rosado, Pat Tokarz, and Andrew Spain.