**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

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

Tuesday, 7 August 2018 at 7:30 PM

Parish House, Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA

**Announcements:** President Jennings called the meeting to order at about 7:32 PM and said only one topic would be discussed: possible changes to Seminary Road.

**Program:** The discussion focused on plans to redesign Seminary Road between Kenmore Avenue and Quaker Lane. The process to redesign the road is unclear. Alexandria City staff are developing options that they plan to present to citizens for possible further tweaking. Whether the final decision will be made at the staff level or the City Council is unclear. SHA invited City staff to attend this Special Meeting but Yon Lambert, the Head of the Transportation and Environmental Services Department (T&ES), was not interested in attending.

**Process:** President Jennings stated that speakers from both the Board of Directors and the audience would be limited to 3 minutes each. No verbatim/recorded minutes of the speakers’ comments will be kept. The SHA Secretary will endeavor to ‘capture’ the gist of each speaker’s comments.

**Carter Flemming** – SHA Vice President – read an email from Yon Lambert basically describing the City’s position and plans for Seminary Road. President Jennings will post this email on the SHA website.

**Bill Goff** – SHA Board Member – stated that there have been no fatalities on Seminary Road between 2014 and 2018.

**Tom Fulton** – SHA Board Member – addressed the ‘faulty plan’ of the City to get people out of their cars and into alternative transportation. He said the City’s Transportation Plan (TMP) will be updated in 2019 with the goal of getting people out of their cars.

**Jack Richards & Kathryn Tatko** – need more speed limit enforcement.

**Nancy Condon** – a single lane road would be a disaster for emergency vehicles and evacuations – Seminary is an arterial road.

**James Norman** – we need to stick to the facts and not opinions – need to treat this redesign as two projects – from I-395 to Alexandria Hospital, which has 30,000 vehicles per day, and from the Hospital to Quaker Lane, which has only 17,000 vehicle per day. Some neighborhood crossings and sidewalks are needed; for example, on the North side of Seminary Road from VTS to Quaker Lane.

**Bonnie O’Day** – it is very difficult to cross Seminary Road – would very much like to see the City’s various options.

**Bill Pfister** – speeding is the biggest problem – children have trouble trying to cross Seminary Road.

**Gwen Paulson** – there is a big problem with cut through traffic from out of the area – big problem at the intersection of Kenmore Avenue/Library Lane and Seminary Road. Cars are continually crossing the lanes – Seminary Road is a major thoroughfare with a Fire Station, Church, Synagogue, Hospital and Post Office so ambulances and fire trucks would have a hard time with a single lane on Seminary Road.

**Jim Forbes** – Citizens have lost trust in the City Council – he questioned their veracity citing things such as the Metro access problem.

**Eli Nelson** – we need to stick to the facts – need more transparency from the City Government – he bikes to work two or three times a week and the current bike paths are not good – it’s a nightmare around Kenmore Avenue.

**Chris Weymont** – want to keep it at 4 lanes vice 2 lanes.

**Alexis Sargent** – the City has set up the survey about Seminary Road to get the answers they want – the City is not being transparent.

**Michael Michaelis** – maybe a 3-lane option would work – need better and safer crossing points.

**Linda Ward** – a single lane will lead to more bottlenecks and cars will cut through neighborhoods- we need more cross walks and more speed enforcement.

**Tom Fulton** – SHA Board Member – the City Planners always want to just “check the box” - the City needs to advocate more for the citizens vice the City’s Planning and Transportation personnel.

**John Chapman** – City Council Member – there is no formal plan yet – safety is our primary concern – my role now is to listen to the citizens – I will try to get the final plan before the City Council.

**Elizabeth Bennet Parker** – Candidate for City Council – wanted to hear the issues.

**Mayor Silberberg** – this was good community engagement – SHA needs to push this issue to City Council – 25 mph speed limit on Seminary Road and Quaker Lane is good – speeding and safety are my primary concerns.

More than 76 City residents – most from Seminary Hill – attended this special meeting. Mayor Silberberg answered multiple questions from the audience, which was very much appreciated. Secretary Dick Hayes summarized the comments in rank order (below) and noted that two days later, on 9 August, T&ES Yon Lambert said in the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* that the City needs to “Return Streets to Citizens.”

1. Safety measures needed because of speeding and to cross Seminary
2. Keep 4-lanes on Seminary Road because it is an arterial; no dedicated bike lanes
3. More transparency from City Government.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM

Richard J. Hayes, Secretary