**Minutes of the January Seminary Hill Association Board Meeting**

**January 3, 2002
Final Copy**

**The monthly meeting of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**
**was held on January 3, 2002 at the**
**Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia.**

**The following SHA officers were present:**

**Bill Dickinson, President Joe Gerard, Vice President**
**Jack Sullivan, Treasurer R. Mark Quave, Secretary**
**Tom Kerester, Area 2 Dick Hobson, Area 3**
**Dan Kelly, Area 4 Frank Putzu, Area 8**
**Pat Lidy, Area 7 Carol Maxwell, Area 6**
**Bruce McCarthy, At Large**

**Bill Dickinson called the Board meeting to order at 8:00 pm.**
**He announced that future monthly SHA meetings would meet on the first Thursday of each month.**

**The December 2001 SHA Board Meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.**

**Jack Sullivan provided the Treasurer’s Report. Currently, the SHA has $6,857.25 in the corporate savings account and $4,624.66 in the corporate checking account. The association has 111 recorded members, plus several recent members that have not been added to this tally, reported Mr. Sullivan.**

**There was no Police Report due to the absence of our Alexandria Police liaison, Sgt. J. Bartlett.**

**Area Reports**

**Area 8 - Frank Putzu will attend an upcoming meeting with Richard Dressner regarding the progress of the Hammond School development. Mr. Putzu said he would follow-up with Richard Baier on the Seminary Road traffic light in front of Hammond School that appears not to be programmed correctly.**

**Old Business**

**Burke Branch Library – According to Joe Gerard, a library reopening date has not been set yet. The reopening, though, is imminent, and the Board expressed a desire to have one or more Board members in attendance at the reopening ceremony. When a date is set, Mr. Gerard will disseminate the information to the members of the Board.**

**Francis Hammond Parkway Development**

**Frank Putzu, a member of the City’s Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) recuse himself from this matter, at least for the time being. Mr. Putzu stated that he had a call into the City’s Attorney to discuss the situation. Mr. Dickinson wanted the record to reflect that in all Board meetings during which this topic had been discussed, Mr. Putzu was absent due to his attendance at BZA meetings. Other members of the Board corroborated this observation.**

**John Edsall, Michael Golden of Francis Hammond Pkwy. and Gene Lange, of Kingston Ave., all residents near the proposed development site at 1100 Francis Hammond Pkwy., in a 23 NOV 01 letter to Barbara Ross, Deputy Director of Planning & Zoning, requested the City deny a building permit to the Meushaw Development Company for Lot 1 of the zoned two-lot site. The City responded December 4, 2001 saying they had no grounds to deny the building permits and addressed each point in the 23 NOV 01 correspondence. The Board received copies of both letters. The above-identified residents have appealed the City’s decision to the BZA.**

**It was also brought to the attention of the Board that a Meushaw Development building permit request for construction on Lot 2 had been denied by the City.**

**The Board restated it’s opposition to the proposed development on the grounds it was inconsistent with the existing character of the neighborhood.**

**Inova Hospital Expansion, Update**

**The City will be meeting with the hospital to discuss landscaping and lighting concerns. Mr. Dickinson has asked the City to include SHA representatives at any such meeting. It is unclear if that request will be honored. Mr. Sullivan does not believe the meetings will seek to change any substantial components of the SHA/Hospital agreement, but is rather a meeting to provide more specificity to the landscaping and lighting plans. Mr. Sullivan agreed though, that it would be preferable for affected residents and the SHA task force to be on hand for any such meetings. The SHA position is that residents and members of the SHA should be on-hand for these meetings given that the residents who will be most impacted by the landscaping and lighting should be consulted.**

**Seminary residents who live near the hospital voiced concern that traffic and parking along their streets would be a severe problem once construction began. Mr. Sullivan said that the SHA/Inova agreement addresses this concern. The hospital will not allow it’s construction contractors to park on these residential streets, and will terminate the employee/contractor that violates the policy.**

**It is expected that Planning Commission will hear the proposed Hospital expansion at their February meeting.**

**Equity Homes on Dartmouth**

**Dick Hobson reported that the City has issued Occupancy Permits for the new homes built by Equity Homes, but that the City is holding the developers’ bond until the developer rectifies several problems that violate the SUP. Mr. Hobson reported that the City had disclosed that the developer was unresponsive to both City and resident complaints.**

**TC Williams High School Scoreboard**

**The Washington Redskins donated a new scoreboard to the high school and the high school/School Board erected it apparently without seeking approval from the City, Mr. Dickinson told the Board. This much larger scoreboard due to its size and its appearance of its backside has negatively affected several residents of Wood Place. Rodger DiGuilio, head of facilities for the School Board Facility has not been responsive to Mr. Dickinson’s request for the planting of trees to provide shielding to the residents. Mr. Dickinson has requested that Barbara Ross determine whether the erection of this scoreboard violated City code. The Board is waiting for Ms. Ross’s response. The Board agreed that Lillian Patterson should consult with local residents in her area to determine what action they want SHA to pursue on this matter.**

**Eisenhower Duke Street Connector**

**On January 23, 2002 the Connector City Task Force will hold a public meeting at City Hall. It is expected that they will announce the elimination of several options for placement of the Connector road and that two locations are still being considered. One of the two locations still under consideration, we believe, is the Bluestone Connector, which has been vigorously opposed by SHA in the past and will continue to be opposed in such a manner. Dick Hobson and other Board members remember strong language being placed in the City’s Master Plan some years ago that would eliminate the Bluestone Connector option for future consideration. The Board agreed to research documentation on this matter. No other action is called for until the January 23rd meeting other than assuring that SHA have a representative present at that meeting.**

**New Business**

**Membership Drive**

**The Board agreed that area representatives would personally encourage residents in their areas to renew their memberships in 2002 if they haven’t done so already. A current and 2001 membership list will be provided to each area representative. First priority would be on reminding 2001 members that their dues have lapsed, second on former members who have not paid in either 2001 or 2002. Recruitment of new members must continue to be a high priority for the Board. It was observed that many neighbors approach SHA for the association’s assistance but still do not join. It has been noted that even some members of the SHA board still have not paid their 2002 dues. Representatives are encouraged to contact these persons either by mail or by phone. Dues are $20. per residence and are current till November 2002. Dues should be sent to Jack Sullivan, 4300 Ivanhoe Place, Alexandria, VA 22304.**

**Ivor Place**

**Pat Lidy briefed the Board on her progress in organizing residents and lot owners in this neighborhood to seek developmental planning assistance from the City. Tom Kerester volunteered to assist Ms. Lidy in identifying the lot owners. Mr. Rick Clawson of Trinity Drive indicated that he has done professional work for one of the lot owners and may be able to help.**

**Gypsy Moth Spraying**

**The spraying will be in the same area as 2001, which was not within SHA boundaries. We should be alert for infestation in our area, though, Mr. Dickinson advised and bring this to the attention of the City’s gypsy moth coordinator.**

**Goodman Property Development**

**Rick Clawson of Trinity Drive, and Bruce Hatton, residents whose properties abut the Battery Heights (old Goodman property) development, advised the Board that the developer has raised the elevation of the building ground to such an extent (four to twelve feet) that the existing residences will be substantially lower than the new homes. Mr. Clawson presented a convincing argument that the construction of the new homes at such an increased (and unanticipated) elevation would seriously and negatively impact the existing character of the neighborhood. The Board approved a resolution calling for Mr. Dickinson to notify the City of our objection to this situation.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted:**
**R. Mark Quave, Secretary**