**MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
(as approved, 1/14/03)

SEMINARY HILLS ASSOCIATION, INC.

December 18, 2002
President Frank Putzu called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM in the Parish Hall of Immanuel Church on the Hill.
The following SHA Officers and Directors were present:
Frank Putzu, President
Joe Gerard, Vice President
Jack Sullivan, Treasurer
Gordon Johnson, Secretary
Tom Kerester, Area 2
Richard Hobson, Area 3
Carol Maxwell, Area 6
Don Fullerton, , Area 8
Buck Coates, Area 9
Joe Fischer, At Large
Bruce McCarthy, At Large
Laura Vetter (for Maggie Nelson) Episcopal High School

Frank Putzu expressed appreciation to Council Member Bill Cleveland for being with us and for his support in opposing the Eisenhower Connector proposals, and also to Bill Dickinson for his outstanding leadership as President of SHA for the past three years.

MINUTES, NOVEMBER 14 ANNUAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the SHA on November 14, 2002, were approved as amended.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Jack Sullivan reported that SHA received $1,355 in dues at the Annual Meeting, and $200 since the meeting, bringing combined funds in the savings and checking accounts to $16, 796.77. We now have about 140 paid-up active members.

There was discussion about accepting a donation from an individual not owning a household and thus not eligible for membership. This is legal but raises a policy issue. It was agreed that there should be no problem accepting a donation of $20, since it is on a par with single household dues. Hobson moved to accept the donation, Gerard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AREA REPORTS

Area 2: Tom Kerester reported that the very effective and widely displayed NO CONNECTOR signs have been collected and put away.

Area 3: Dick Hobson reported that there will be no fence on Dartmouth Place and that an application had been filed for a re-zoning on the corner of Quaker Lane and Duke Street to allow construction of seven town houses. Included in the application is a plan to change the intersection to a T-intersection, removing the extra turn lanes from and to Duke Street on the corner. SHA is already on record opposing this proposal. Joe Gerard agreed to prepare another letter to the City to submit when and if the application comes up for approval.

Area 6: Carol Maxwell reported no current issues for SHA at present.

Area 8: Don Fullerton reported that there are two houses proposed for building on the two-acre lot in "Buzzards Gap" which raise some questions about a sidewalk and already existing City easement across the lot.

Area 9: Buck Coates reported all quiet on Seminary Ridge.

POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Bartlett reported that detailed crime statistics are available now on the City web site to allow a personalized crime report for any street, or block or area that a citizen may wish to have. In the discussion about traffic unit staffing, he reported that though some priorities of the department have changed since September 11, the size of the traffic unit has remained unchanged.

OLD BUSINESS

Eisenhower Connector: Frank Putzu summarized the decision by the City Council to drop all consideration of a 3- or 4-lane connector and study possible multiple 2-lane connectors. The Council will also consider some portion of the No-build-with-improvements Option. He requested Messrs. Sullivan, Hobson and Fischer to draft a set of questions relating to the Eisenhower connector to be submitted by SHA to each candidate for City Council. They agreed to produce the questions for the Board at its next meeting, January 14.

HOV Exit from I-395N at Seminary Road: Frank Putzu reported that VDOT is considering adding an HOV exit northbound on I-395 at Seminary Road, with an exit at Duke or King as alternatives. The City is on record opposing this, and Putzu was assured it is unlikely.

T.C. Williams HS Extension: Frank Putzu reported that a possible extension into the Chinquapin recreation area will not be allowed because Federal funds were involved in preserving this area. TC must work within the space they have, but may work out some arrangement to share some of the Chinquapin facilities.

ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL EXPANSION: Chuck Schwidde, who lives on Ormond Street close to the hospital, reported that despite a long-standing agreement between the hospital and SHA, hospital employees are parking all day in residential areas around the hospital causing residents a variety of problems. Hospital officials seem to say that since construction has not started, the terms of the current "transition agreement" do not apply. Jack Sullivan pointed out that policies against employee all-day parking in nearby residential areas had been agreed to long before the current agreement. Mr. Schwidde reported that there have been several confrontations between residents and employees and that employees have accused residents and SHA of stalking and harassing dedicated health workers, threatening possible legal action. Joe Gerard observed that we need to recapture information on the earlier agreements and should meet with hospital officials.

2nd Presbyterian Church Property Sale: Frank Putzu reported that Joe Fischer has been following closely the proposed sale of the 9 1/2 –acre church property on the corner of Quaker Lane and Janney’s Lane. Multiple developers have submitted bids, as has at least one religious group. It is zoned R-20. The winning developer will probably request an SUP to allow cluster housing, which would be more desirable than by-rights development. The most important issue will be a possible cut-through on the south side to Cathedral. The City will probably object to any access onto Quaker Lane. There is also a question as to the future of the manse, which is "almost historical" but in poor condition. No one on the Board had heard the views of residents of Cathedral, which would strongly influence the Board’s position. Cindy Gurne reported that she understands there have been twelve bid-filers, and that while the National Capital Presbytery is expecting a substantial sum, money will not be the only factor in their decision. They expect to narrow the bidder lilst to two between now and March. Joe Gerard agreed to work with Don Fullerton, Joe Fischer and Cathedral resident Gail Redwick to prepare a list of criteria outlining SHA’s interests and concerns regarding this property, for consideration by the Board at its next meeting, January 14. Dick Hobson recused himself from participation in this decision.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications Officer: The new position of Communications Officer was established at the November 14 Annual Meeting, to be a Voting Member of the Board and elected by the Board. Dick Hobson reported that the Nominating Committee had selected Cindy Gurne for this position and placed her name in nomination. Jack Sullivan seconded the nomination and she was elected by unanimous vote of the Board. One of her first tasks will be to organize the membership roll and update the e-mail address list. She will be responsible for communications with members, Seminary area residents and with the Gazette.

Membership: Frank Putzu and Jack Sullivan reported that active paid membership has grown from 70 in 1998/99 to the present total of about 140. About 500 households have been paid members at one time or another since 1999 when membership records were computerized. The recent mailing, which included a stamped reply envelope, played an important role in generating the increase. Another mailing should be planned for early next year. An e-mail newsletter was also discussed. Jack Sullivan will supply Cindy Gurne with his list of the 500 households. Frank Putzu felt we should be targeting a consistent membership of 350-400 members.

Areas of Responsibility: Frank Putzu is working on a list of functional issue responsibilities on each of which it would be helpful for the Board to have a point person. He will circulate this list for review and discussion at the next board meeting and look for volunteers at that time. Examples of issues that need continuing attention include zoning, land use, traffic and environment.

EPA Smart Growth Awards: Frank Putzu observed that Arlington had won an award and he would explore what is required for Alexandria to receive an award.

Open Space: Bill Dickinson reported that in response to continuing loses of open space, the City commissioned development of a strategic plan for the City to acquire and preserve open space. Following a presentation to the City Council in October, a 400-page draft report was issued two weeks ago. It has some good and some not-so-good points. The report deals only with City-owned space, not institutional or individually owned open space. Much of the institutional space is zoned R-20. The report also proposes a new open space conservancy office, with several new city positions, which raise questions. The report is posted on the City web site and hearings on it are expected in late January. Bill Dickinson will continue to follow this issue on behalf of the Board.

Child Care Centers in Residential Neighborhoods: Frank Putzu reported that Wilson University is attempting to establish a new child-care facility in a 3-bedroom home in an R-20 zone on Seminary road near the fire house to accommodate over 70 children, and labeling it a private school. This would require an SUP and an 8-person Task Force appointed by the City has recommended a code change to make this possible. SHA has already written to the City to state that we oppose this proposal. Discussion focused on the need to define specific limits as to hours of operation and numbers of children for both private schools and child-care centers. This should be brought up with the Alexandria Federation since all citizen associations should have an interest in developing a common position on this topic. The need to re-authorize the SHA lawsuit was debated in light that it might be of little value if the City overrides the ordnance. SHA should present its opposition at the January 29 Planning Commission meeting.

City Grants: There was a discussion of city grants.

Miscellaneous:

There was discussion of an SUP application for a group home for adolescent girls in Old Town, which has agreement from the inner city civic association. The Board needs to explore further the impact of action by Governor Warner to de-institutionalize some social welfare and health functions currently provided by the state. This will pass the need for providing these functions down to the communities.

Bill Dickinson announced that he will run for City Council in the next election with Jack Sullivan as his campaign manager and Barbara Gilley as Treasurer. He noted that the cost of running for the City Council in 2000 averaged $40,000 and asked for support and help from everyone present at the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon O. F. Johnson, Secretary