**Seminary Hill Association, Inc.**

**Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

**Thursday, June 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting Held Electronically**

**Minutes**

**Police Report**: Officer Lennon reported that there were 79 total reports in the past month which was 20 more than last month. The reports consisted of assault and battery, car break-in’s, destruction of property, drug offenses, shoplifting, stolen cars, and trespassing.

**Sheriff’s Report:**  Captain Oliver said the Department is working with various community service projects such as Meals on Wheels. She also said the Department was actively recruiting for new personnel.

**Program:** **Mark Schnaufer, BRT Program Manager for the Duke Street Transitway, to discuss upcoming community involvement for the project.**

Mark said they like to call the project Duke Street in Motion. Basically, it involves improvements in the Duke Street In Motion process, primarily by bus transit. The project will reflect the needs of the entire Duke Street community. There is considerable planning and research going on which will include 3 phases; namely, Uses of Duke Street, Alternatives, and Concept Plan. They will be interviewing people at bus stops, stores, apartments and condominiums. The project will extend from Landmark to the King Street Metro Station. The known issues to be resolved include congestion, cut through traffic, the Telegraph Road intersection, parking on frontage roads, and biking & pedestrian experiences.

President Flemming raised the issue of the Telegraph Road ramp. City Transportation Director Jon Lambert has stated that there will be no widening of the ramp. Mark said they hope to solve the problem by adjusting the lights at the Duke Street and Taylor Run intersection.

Bill Goff asked if there was going to be a ‘look at’ a connector road between Duke Street and I-95 via Ben Brenman Park and Mark said ‘probably not’ because of past community objections.

Overall, the presentation was well received but with a lot of skepticism.

**Program: David Brown, North Ridge Resident, to discuss the process for Zoning Changes and Master Plan Amendments.**

David, speaking as a private citizen and not representing any organization, discussed the planning and zoning issues surrounding the plan for Inova Alexandria Hospital (IAH) to re-locate to the new Landmark Campus. David provided some historical background on an earlier Special Use Permit (SUP) issue in 2002 which resulted in a Covenant between IAH and nearby residents that preserved a tree line buffer between the resident’s households and IAH which included no more zoning changes and was to last for 25 years until 2027. IAH now wants to get

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the property re-zoned to maximize its monetary value that would be needed to move the hospital to the new Landmark site. When this issue went before the City Planning Commission, they apparently were not aware of this ‘proffer’. The Planning Commission recommended approval of a zoning change to RB, which had been suggested by SHA as an alternative to the RA zoning IAH initially proposed. The reality is that a future developer can come before Council to request a much higher zoning than RB, because once IAH sells the property, they have no control over what the developer wants to do. The scenic easement that has existed on the property since the hospital’s expansion does not convey when the property is sold and it is no longer a hospital. Additionally, it is highly unusual to rezone a property without a Development Special Use Plan (DSUP) which would not come from IAH but a future developer.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the 2002 Covenant was between IAH and the neighbors and was also conveyed to the City of Alexandria; therefore, SHA needs to act before the issue comes up before the City Council in the near future. A motion was made and approved to create a SHA Advisory Task Group (President Carter (Chair), Tom Fulton, Frank Putzu and Jack Sullivan. The SHA Task Group will communicate the Covenant issue with IAH and remind them that the Covenant is still in effect and we (SHA) are evaluating our options. The Task Group will advise the rest of the SHA Board on the progress of this task.

**Minutes:** the May Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Nan Jennings reported that the SHA account has $23,691.56 in the bank. Additions this month include $135 in donations and also a check was written for $100 in memory of Dick Hobson.

**Area Reports:**  President Flemming recommended everyone read the current issue of Alexandria Times which contains a story about Frances Terrell receiving well earned reparations from VTS for the work by her enslaved ancestors in helping to build the original VTS. Bill Goff from Area 2 reported on the issues concerning the building and layout of the TCW new athletic facilities. Loren Needles, At-Large, reported that there seems to be no progress on the new housing planned for the Karig Estates. Beth Chase, SS&SA representative reported that graduation exercises will take place on Saturday, 12 June.

**Old Business:** The ADHC Seminary Road Project – modifications are being made to the plan. Taylor Run Stream Restoration project is quiet for now. MacArthur School Rebuild – the structure is down and debris is being removed. The proposed Noise Ordinance will probably be approved in the Fall.

**New Business:** The Aquatics Center at Minnie Howard – there is controversy concerning whether to build a ‘regulation’ swimming pool at the new site, since the cost was not included in the CIP budget. The pool will be regulation size for high school swim meets. The pool will also be available for the public when not in use for school events. ACPS wants the pool but City Manager Mark Jinks is opposed due to the cost. It is likely to be approved by Council at an additional cost of $12 million in city funds.

President Flemming mentioned that the City is expected to receive $29.5M this year from the Federal American Rescue Plan and City Council will consider and approve projects to receive funding.

Having no further business, the Meeting adjourned at 9:28 PM.

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**Attendance:** Board members: Carter Flemming, Tom Fulton, Nan Jennings, Fran Terrell, Bill Goff, Richard Hunt, Jack Sullivan, Bette Smith, Jim Rowley, Frank Putzu, Paul Judge, Dick Hayes, Loren Needles, Ross Kane and Beth Chase.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Hayes for Kathy McAfee