

SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

The following Board Members were present:

Officers:

Joanne Lepanto, President

Pat Lidy, Vice President

Jack Sullivan, Treasurer

Susan Ross-O'Brien, Secretary

Area Representatives:

1 - Lillian Patterson

2 – George Foote (for Carter Flemming)

3 – Dick Hobson

4 – Beth Aronson

6 – Nancy Jennings

7 – Pat Lidy

9 – Bruce McCarthy

At-Large: Joe Fischer

Others present:

Alexandria City Police Department: Captain Hassan Aden

Guest Speaker(s) included: Bruce Johnson for the City Budget Office, Vice Mayor Del Pepper, and City Council Members Justin Wilson and Rob Krupicka.

Other Attendees: Joe Bennett, Kathleen Burns, Ginny Hines Parry, Jim Butler, Judy Cooper, Bill and Peni Roberts.

President, Joanne Lepanto, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Review and Approval of March 13, 2008 Minutes:

The 13 March 2008 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Sullivan reported a March closing balance of \$27, 276.80. A successful Spring membership drive brought in \$2,004.00 and 117 memberships. President Joanne Lepanto was complimented for being the driving force behind this effort.

Membership	Fall & Spring	\$4,414.00
Paid Members	221	
New Members	14	
Household paid dues	475	

New Members on email list	35	
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Upcoming Meetings: Joanne Lepanto encouraged attendance at several upcoming events.

- Hearing on the Budget, Monday, April 14, 2008
- Infill Task Force meeting dates; Thursdays, April 17th at 7:00 p.m. and May 1st at 7:00 p.m.
- Landmark-Van Dorn (L/VD) Advisory Group meeting on Monday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m.
- Way Finding Committee; Thursday, April. 24th at 9:00am in the City Hall

Area Reports of Representatives present:

1. Lillian Patterson- no report
3. Dick Hobson – no report
4. Beth Aronson – no report
6. Nancy Jennings –Trash dumpsters still a big problem. Rats continue to be a problem and continued unsavory activity in Ft. Ward Park.
7. Pat Lidy-
 - a. Ivor Lane and Braddock Rd. Now rented and renovation activity.
 - b. Encore Apts. in the Cove area there is a pool. The owner is open to landscaping recommendations.
8. Bruce McCarthy – reported on Coopers Grove.

Police Report:

Captain Aden reported:

- 19% overall drop in crime
- 15% drop in Larceny and Theft
- 35% drop from 2007
- YTD up 2 Burglaries in Seminary Hill

Guest Speaker, Bruce Johnson presented on the City Budget:

Mr. Johnson discussed the current city General Budget and the Alternative Budget. The Alternative Budget is 7.1 million dollars higher than the proposed budget. Other topics he covered included; reverse growth, interest earnings, economic sustainability, Capital Plan, future budget predictions, and the VA Transportation authority. Mr. Johnson took questions at the close of the presentation. The topics included; Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB), Capital improvement projects (CIP), City health plan and the city’s defined pension plan.

Mr. Johnson provided dates for key City Budget meetings.

1. February 12th – Present the budget
2. May 5th – Pass the budget
3. November 7th- Resolution

There was a 2.9% increase over last year.

Other Related meetings:

- April 14th General budget at 4:00
- April 8th

- May 5th

Budget		Alternative Budget
70% for city	2.4% ↑	3.9↑
30% for schools	4.1% ↑	5%↑

Resolution of Nov. 7th. The Budget increased 2.9 % over last year; half the budget is driven by Real Estate that depends on the assessment.

Old Business:

- 508 Quaker Lane – no report
- 5325 Polk Ave. – In limbo. City offer to purchase as open space rejected by owner.
- Transportation Master Plan: Vice Mayor Del Pepper and City Council Members Rob Krupicka and Justin Wilson were present to give background on the Master Plan and field questions. A discussion of the process and the significant changes to the plan ensued. A dedicated highly convenient mass transit system like in Europe is desirable. Major points included:
 - Metro in Potomac Yard, and
 - Metro in Eisenhower Valley
 - Metro and Connector
- Landmark /Van Dorn – Joanne Lepanto reported that meetings were very unsatisfactory, the consultant was one-sided, summary of consultation report was not reflective of the advisory group’s input, the meeting place setting was inadequate.
- Historical Project – nothing new to report
- Infill Task Force – no report
- Hunting Terrace - Developer Cecchi built a 5story building at the site.

New Business:

- A resolution on the All-Sports Facility was proposed by Jack Sullivan and passed by the board. (see below)
- Discussion on dropping City Council/local elections in May and combining with the National elections in November.

President Lepanto adjourned the meeting at 10:30 P.M.

Susan Ross-O’Brien, Recording Secretary

Resolution on the All-Sports Facility

With deep concern for rising taxes in a time of economic distress in our city, state and nation, Seminary Hill requests the Alexandria City Council to strike the appropriation of \$260,000 in FY2009 City budget to hire a firm to do fundraising for an \$11 million All –Sports Facility and to postpone any further planning or expenditures for this project until improvements in the economy allow us first to meet pressing needs in capital improvements for our schools and other projects of a higher priority.