

SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes For September 11, 2008

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	5	Dick Hayes
2		6	Nancy Jennings
3	Dick Hobson	7	Pat Lidy
4	Beth Aronson- <i>abs</i>	8	VACANT
		9.	Bruce McCarthy- <i>abs.</i>

At-Large: Joe Fischer, Margaret Goodman

Episcopal High School: Boota De Butts

Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS): Heather Zdancewicz
Steve Harkins for Carter Flemming-*abs.*

The following City Representatives were present:

- Del Pepper, Vice Mayor of Alexandria
- Justin Wilson, Alexandria City Council
- Brian Grenadier, Sheriff's Office

Guest Speakers:

1. Colleen Rafferty, City of Alexandria, Planning and Zoning
2. Glen Euster, Marlboro Estates Homeowner, (Ft. Ward)

HANDOUTS:

Meeting Called to Order: (7:30 PM)

President, Joanne Lepanto, introduced the Guest Speakers and City representatives present.

Review and Approval of June, 2008 Minutes:

The minutes for June 2008 were not available for review.

Treasurer's Report: Jack Sullivan reported receiving \$190.00 in membership dues from 8 members. \$50.00 was received from the Hipp family at 809 Quaker Lane. \$330.00 was paid out in invoices. The balance at end of summer was \$27,946.80

Upcoming Meetings: See Attachment A

Area Reports of Representatives present:

1. Lillian Patterson- Attempted robbery of two vehicles at 2 A.M. Witness saw 2 men.
2. Steve Harkins for C. Flemming – T.C. Williams has a finish date of October 2008. Discussion of an Operational Committee between T.C. Williams and our community has not been formed to date. Recommended to contact Sharon Anair of INOVA committee.
3. Dick Hobson – All quiet
4. Beth Aronson – *absent*
5. Dick Hayes – no report
6. Nancy Jennings – Ft Ward issue to be addressed by guest speaker
7. Pat Lidy - Ft Ward issue to be addressed by guest speaker
8. Vacancy
9. Bruce McCarthy – *absent (Joanne Lepanto also in area 9 said all's quiet)*

Police Report:

Dick Hayes reported that in the last two weeks crime has gone up in Old Town Alexandria for assault and robberies between 8 and 12 pm.

Lt. Brian Grenadier reported on:

- Upcoming Police function at Ft. Ward, Employee Appreciation Day, Oct 2 from 4-8
- Maintenance is ongoing at the Library and Ft. Ward
- The city now has “Project Lifesaver”, a radio tracking system (13 transmitters), to locate missing persons with Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, and Autism. Contact Kelly Swanson at Kelly Cares.

Area Report on Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS): Heather Zdancewicz

1. VTS getting Street names and signs.
2. VTS is a dead zone for Cellular service. Working with AT&T for coverage. Meeting between BAR and AT&T on Sept. 16th.

Discussion of Upcoming Seminary Hill Meeting in November

Joanne Lepanto will be confirming the date for Nov. 5th. (Nov 6th a possibility). Event will be held at the same place, Auditorium at the Seminary and same food. Nancy Jennings is responsible for signs and Joanne Lepanto for the Flyer. Suggestions for a speaker were solicited. Recommendations included; the new Superintendent of Schools and Brian Moran.

Guest Speakers, Colleen Rafferty, City of Alexandria, Planning and Zoning and Henry Lewis, City of Alexandria, Department of General Services spoke on:

1. New Police Headquarters – 2900 Business Center Drive. Site location is Wheeler Ave

2. Materials Storage Facility at south Quaker Lane, Recycling Center of three Dumpsters.
3. New Salt Barn
4. New Parking area

Second Guest Speaker, Joe Bennett of the Cameron Station Civic Association spoke to us on the

Norfolk Southern Railroad's Ethanol Trans Loading Facility located 400ft from Townhouses and 600 ft. from Tucker elementary school. This facility opened on April 9, 2008. Joanne Lepanto passed out colored maps of the area.

Discussion topics included:

- What did the City Manager know? What actions taken?
- City Manager hiring consultants to learn about how his staff communicates. Why an Organizational Development background intervention? (Independent Investigation needed similar to an IG type investigation).
- May 15 City Council Memo of Pros and Cons
- Citizens being denied rights to protect their interests
- Ethanol characteristics (like alcohol 190 proof)
 - Highly Flammable
 - Burns transparent
 - Prone to leak
- Letters to Mayor, Bill Euille requesting outside investigation; to determine What, Why, and How factors
- No records, no notes on Norfolk Southern from City Staff!
- September 23rd City council will vote on investigation
- **1/2-mile safety barrier has 8,000 people in it.**

Questions Posed included:

1. Is Congressman Moran pursuing legal action?
2. What are the rights of the Service Transportation Board?
 - a. Del Pepper and Justin Wilson spoke on independent investigation
3. What is the Railroad class exemption?
4. Where is the accountability in the city, in the Railroad? Facts on the table??
5. Equipment and Training available in Alexandria for an emergency?
6. Are there draft Evacuation Plans for Tucker school? (Oct. 12th 9-12)

Reference URLs:

- <http://cameronstationcivicasociation.org>
- <http://alexandria.gov.va/transloading>

SHA Resolution: A resolution was passed to support Cameron Station.

Discussion:

Vice Mayor, Del Pepper and City Council member, Justin Wilson reported on their responses to the situation respectively. Del Pepper mentioned that the Norfolk Southern used the Railroad Class

Exemption. Justin Wilson indicated that the Council wanted an independent investigation to get the facts and identify accountability.

Old Business:

- Landmark /Van Dorn – Activity report; issues discussed included:
 - Developer not free to change mix at will
 - FAR – Parking Garages
 - Building height of 25 stories
 - Transit issues – No answer
 - 110 million to sink into Duke St.
 - Bonds have to be paid off means less in City coffers
 - Reduce Infrastructure costs
 - Have developer put in more money
 - Plan to go before City Council before end of year
 - 9/27 Community Open House
 - All residential – 30% Retail and Office

- Ft Ward Park Health and Safety Issues – Guest Speaker Glenn Eugster
 - Management and use of park has changed
 - Noise
 - Changes in protection and use
 - Expand maintenance are by adding dumpsters (waste comes from all over city)
 - Located 60ft. from a single family home
 - Erosion in Baptist church cemetery
 - Autonomous arrogance
 - A permit for 30-35 people was issued to an individual whose name was already red flagged and 700-1000 persons showed up!! Recent party used 6 ft. speakers.

Pickett-Pegram traffic Calming; parts had to be torn up and redone twice

New Business:

- No new business

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

Susan Ross-O'Brien, Recording Secretary
(with amendments)

Attachment A:

SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.

September 12, 2008

List of Upcoming Community Meetings

SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC. BOARD MEETINGS

Thursday, October 16, 2008 (3rd Thursday): Guest speaker Councilman Tim Lovain

Thursday, November 13, 2008 (2nd Thursday)

Thursday, December 11, 2008 (2nd Thursday)

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill Parish House at 3606 Seminary Road (corner of Seminary Road and Quaker Lane). Our meetings are open and we invite you to join us.

LANDMARK/VAN DORN ADVISORY GROUP

(check <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default/default.aspx?id=7014> for confirmation)

The following meetings will be held at Landmark Mall in meeting space next to Lane Bryant, located on second level of mall. Enter mall building through main entrance on Duke Street side and turn left.

Monday, September 15, 2008, 6:30-9:00 p.m., Transportation & Development Economics

Monday, September 22, 2008, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, 2008, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Community Open House

Monday, October 20, 2008, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

The following meetings will be held in the City Council Workroom, Room 2410, City Hall.

Tuesday, October 7, 2008, 6:00 p.m. Planning Commission Work Session

Tuesday, October 28, 2008, 5:30 p.m. City Council Work Session

For information: Pat Mann (703-838-4666, ext. 303; pat.mann@alexandriava.gov)

Two Seminary Hill Association, Inc. board members, Joanne Lepanto and Jack Sullivan, serve as members of this Advisory Group.

FORT WARD PARK “FETE AT THE FORT”

Saturday, September 20, 2008, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA

Reception sponsored by Friends of Fort Ward to honor City of Alexandria for its preservation activities at the Historic Site. Civil War music, light refreshments, opportunity to join Friends of Fort Ward support group. Public is welcome, admission is free. Call in advance to reserve a place. For information: Diane Bechtol 703-838-4848 diane.bechtoll@alexandriava.gov, or Susan Cumbey 703-838-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.

BRADDOCK/KING/QUAKER STUDY

Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Minnie Howard School Cafeteria, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA

For information: Ravi Raut (703-838-4411, ext. 159; ravindra.raut@alexandriava.gov)

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

First Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

October 1, 2008

November 5, 2008

December 3, 2008

Sister Cities Conference Room 1101, City Hall

Meetings include public hearing

For information: Tom Culpepper (703-838-4966 or tom.culpepper@alexandriava.gov)

WEBA (West End Business Association)

Thursday, September 25, 2008, 8:00-9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Bill Reagan, Director, Alexandria Small Business Development Center

Topic: Managing Your Business During an Economic Downturn

Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA

Fee: Advanced reservations \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members; \$2 more at the door

Wednesday, October 22, 2008 luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 pm.

Speaker: Virginia State Senator Richard Saslaw, Senate Majority Leader

Topic: Improving the Business Climate in Northern Virginia and Winning Friends and Dollars in Richmond

Mango Mike's Restaurant, 4580 Duke St., Alexandria.

Fee: tickets: Advanced reservations \$22 for members, \$24 for non-members; \$2 more at the door

For information: Linda Vitello, 703-845-6156, lvitello@nvcc.edu, or www.alexandriaweba.com

Joanne Lepanto is the Civic Association Liaison on the WEBA Board.