

Seminary Hill Association
Board Meeting
December 14, 2005

Meeting called to order by Jack Sullivan at 7:35PM.

Roll Call

President, Jack Sullivan
Vice President, Joanne Lepanto
Treasurer, Jack Sullivan
Secretary and EHS, Laura Vetter
Communications Officer, Cindy Gurne
Area 1, Lillian Patterson
Area 2, Tom Kerester
Area 3, Dick Hobson
Area 4, Cindy Gurne
Area 5, Dick Hayes
VTS, Mary Hix
At-Large, Charles Ablard

Annual Meeting Minutes

Changes, particularly with regard to the Eisenhower connector, were discussed and will be implemented.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Sullivan reported a current balance of \$21,631.82.
Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed.

Police Report

Sergeant Bartlett reported that homicides are up 15%. Rapes are down 23%. Overall crime is down 8%. According to Sergeant Bartlett, an arrest has been made in case of a series of package thefts in Cameron Station. Cindy Gurne announced that she has created a link to Sergeant Bartlett on the SHA website.
Dick Hayes inquired about an email regarding traffic at North Jordan Street and Juniper in the Foxchase area. Speed trailers will be placed in this area in response.
Sergeant Bartlett was thanked for his efforts.

Area Reports

Area 1

Lillian Patterson reported that there have been a few complaints regarding TC Williams High School construction.

Area 2

Tom Kerester reported nothing new to report.

Area 3

Dick Hobson reported that the pocket park at Duke Street and Quaker Lane is on the agenda.

Area 4

Cindy Gurne reported on the house fire at Quaker Lane and Trinity Drive. Jack Sullivan stated that Dagobert Soergel has been very supportive of SHA, so as an organization we should do whatever we can to help. Cindy Gurne will send an email to the SHA membership requesting help. Dick Hobson motioned that SHA donate \$100 to Immanuel Church for the use of their facilities and to help purchase more toys to replace those damaged during the house fire. The motion passed.

Dagobert Soergel, the owner of the residence, arrived and discussed the fire damage to his home. He explained that the historical part of the house was not damaged. The core of the house was built before 1850. It is believed that the cause of the fire was electrical.

Area 5

Dick Hayes reported that Peggy Settler of 1301 Juniper Place has expressed concern about the traffic on lower Jordan Street. Sergeant Bartlett is working on this issue.

Dick Hayes provided an update on the situation at 4555 Seminary Road with regard to the multiple vehicles parked in the driveway and potentially multiple families living in the single family home, as a potential code enforcement issue. Jack Sullivan explained that the cabs belong to residents of Seminary Forest, because the apartment complex does not allow its residents to park their cabs in the Seminary Forest parking lots. Cindy Gurne explained the zoning requirements for unrelated occupants of a single family home. Joanne Lepanto and Laura Vetter said the multiple cabs are an eyesore and something should be done. Jack Sullivan worries that if the cabs are prohibited from parking at 4555 Seminary Road the problem will be moved somewhere else. Joanne Lepanto will contact Code Enforcement on this issue.

Old Business

Representation of Area 6

Cindy Gurne will email the name of a potential representative to Jack Sullivan.

Disposition of Lawsuit re: 4555 Seminary Road

Dick Hobson reported providing background on this issue. He explained that SHA filed a lawsuit in response to an application to operate a daycare center on the site. SHA filed the lawsuit to force the city to clarify the definition of an academic institution. BZA supported the operation of a daycare center at the site. The lawsuit was put on hold, because the application for the daycare center was denied.

Status of Quaker View Property

Laura Durham contacted Cindy Gurne regarding, whether the owners would be willing to sell their open space to the city. Councilman Paul Smedberg wanted to reassign open space funds to maintain existing parks, which would make less money available for the acquisition of open space. The Democratic party opposes Smedberg's motion. City Council was split on this issue.

Update on the Seminary Hill Historical Project

Charles Ablard reported that six new volunteers, including Ludwig Gaines, were recruited at the annual meeting. A discussion ensued of oral history of Dagobert Soergel. The home on the Second Presbyterian Church site was discussed. Additionally, other homeowners to contact were discussed.

The Connector

Jack Sullivan reported on an effort to reallocate the \$15 million in connector funds to another use. Rich Baier has set forth a roadmap to reallocate the funds. The Transportation Task Force has been asked to hold a public hearing on the issue of the reallocation of the connector funds. SHA needs to be communicating with the City Council on the new plan for the funds.

New Business

Election of At-Large Board Members

Carter Fleming, Charles Ablard, Joe Fischer and Bruce McCarthy were nominated for and elected to at-large positions on the SHA board.

Election of SHA Representative to the Federation of Civic Associations

Jack Sullivan introduced Lisa Marie Cheney. Jack explained that SHA has been successful, because we are bipartisan and Lisa Marie Cheney demonstrates the bipartisan nature of SHA. Dick Hobson moved that Lisa Marie Cheney be appointed to represent SHA on the Federation of Civic Associations. The motion passed.

Proposed Topics for Future Meetings

All Sports Stadium

There are four TC Williams home games per year. The All Sports Stadium proposal is pushed by Mayor Euille and Claire Eberwein. Discussion ensued of evening football games. TC Williams High School currently has a football stadium and a track. Jack Sullivan believes that we need more discussion on this issue. Dick Hobson believes that an all sports facility with a stadium with lights for night games would take the pressure off to install lights in the stadium at TC Williams High School. Cindy Gurne clarified that this is a capital expenditure issue. Dick Hayes raised the concern of the expense required to maintain such a facility, such as utilities. Jack Sullivan suggested a briefing for SHA on this issue, both in favor and against.

Term Limits for SHA Officers and Area Representatives

Bill Dickinson would like to speak on this issue at our next meeting. Dick Hobson feels that SHA has a hard time filling its leadership positions, rather than trying to get people off the board. Laura Vetter opposes term limits and agrees with Dick Hobson. Cindy Gurne presented an alternative point of view, due to the perception that SHA is a closed organization. Cindy would also like for Bill Dickinson to speak about his perceptions of SHA. Joanne believes that we should talk about getting more people involved.

Upcoming Meetings

The upcoming meetings were scheduled for January 11, February 15 and March 15, 2006.

Candidates for the school board in District 2

No incumbents will be running for the school board. A discussion ensued of candidates presenting why they are running for the school board in a candidate forum to SHA members. The Democratic Party caucus will be held on February 4th for City Council. A suggestion was made to partner with neighboring civic associations to collaborate on a 2nd District School Board forum. The School Board election will be held in May, so the candidate forum will be organized for March.

“Report Card” for Members of Council & School Board and/or questionnaire for candidates

Jack Sullivan will discuss this issue with the Federation of Civic Associations.

Minutes

The October minutes were approved.

Issues raised by Cindy Gurne

Cindy Gurne discussed a summary report of the 2006 SHA members. She emphasized that each Area Representative needs to promote membership in their respective areas.

Strategic Planning Meeting for this Year

Jack Sullivan will consider this issue.

Cindy Gurne stated that she believes that issue centered meetings draw higher attendance and interest.

Draft Survey of Fifteen Issues

This survey presents why members join SHA and what issues are of concern to the membership.

Membership Directory

Cindy Gurne will move forward with producing and SHA membership directory. Jack Sullivan believes that the directory should be prepared from membership information to include name, address and phone number. Cindy Gurne would like to include additional information, such as number of children. Cindy has noted, who does not want to be included in the directory.

Lisa Marie Cheney shared that on March 25th an Open Summit on gangs will be held from 9-1 at MacArthur Elementary School. The summit will include former gang members and the Alexandria gang liaison.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Vetter
Secretary

