

Seminary Hill Association

Board of Directors Meeting January 18, 2005

The SHA Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Dick Hobson at 7:35 PM.

The following Board Members were present:

Dick Hobson, Area 3
Damon Wright, Area 4
Dick Hayes, Area 5
Pat Liddy, Area 7
Richard Dresner, Area 8
Bob Coulter, Area 9
Laura Vettter, Secretary and Episcopal High School
Cindy Gurne, Communications Officer
Frank Putzu, Past President

A majority of ten members is required to conduct official business of the board. There was not aquorum.

Minutes

The minutes from the December 21, 2004 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Sullivan was not present to report. A \$254 bill was paid for expenses related to the annual meeting.

Police Report

Sargeant Bartlett spoke about the Goodwin House stabbing incident. The suspect is in custody.

Area Reports

Area 3:

Dick Hobson reported that Hechinger Commons has not further pursued encroaching on their buffer zone to gain additional parking.

According to the newspaper, Dick Hobson will run for the House of Delegates. Dick Hobson confirmed this to the delight of everyone present.

Area 4:

Damon Wright reported on the Fort Williams Parkway traffic calming plan.

Area 5:

Dick Hayes estimates that at least 3 families are living at Wilson University.

Area 6:

Pat Lidy reported that Ivor Lane is quiet. Braddock Court is experiencing problems with non residents of the court parking their cars there. The home owners are seeking a parking ban between 11 PM and 7 AM. All of the home owners supported the ban. Motion was put forward for SHA to support the Braddock Court petition to prohibit parking from 11 PM to 7 AM. This motion was seconded and passed. Dick Hobson will draft a letter for the Parking and Traffic Board, which meets on Monday night.

Episcopal High School:

Laura Vetter reported nothing new to report.

Old Business

Traffic Calming

Bob Coulter reported that the city has approved funds for traffic calming on Fort Williams Parkway. 30-40 people attended a recent meeting on this subject at St, Stephen's Upper School. Paul De Maio reported on a plan to add sidewalks, speed cushions and a bike path on Fort Williams Parkway. There are several issues and concerns, including having the city put sidewalks on the right away. The consensus supports speed cushions. A discussion of bike lanes ensued. Cindy Gurne suggested that the number one priority is to achieve agreement for the speed cushions. Cindy Gurne asked, why does the first block off of Duke Street have sidewalks on the on both sides of the street. Under the proposed plan, the West side of the street will have sidewalks all the way, but sidewalks will not consistently go all the way on the East side. One homeowner wants to close Fort Williams Parkway at Duke Street. The city is proposing to build a sidewalk on the right away, Bob Coulter believes it would be more effective to narrow the street by adding sidewalks on both sides of the street. One of the issues is that one cannot park within 20 feet of the speed tables, due to emergency vehicle access.

Quaker View

No official filing of the site plan has occurred, so the committee will proceed with its work.

TC Williams High School

Cindy Gurne reported on her discussions with Mike Burke, the coordinator of the TC Williams High School renovation committee.

The Minnie Howard School renovation has been postponed to 2008.

A Letter of Occupancy has been issued for the gym at Hammond Middle School.

Historic Survey

Dick Hobson handed out Charles Ablard's report on the historic survey of Seminary Hill. Chalres Ablard would like authorization to hire the person, whose resumme was distributed to the board.

Ten years ago a grant was issued by the Historic Alexandria Foundation to SHA for this project, but it was never paid out. The purpose of the grant is to conduct a survey and

documentation of historic properties on Seminary Hill and eventually to pursue historic area designation. Dick Hobson motioned for authorization of the expenditure of SHA funds to hire Barbara Ballantine to carry out this work. Richard Dressner opposed this motion. According to Cindy Gurne, some potential volunteers have expressed interest in the history of Seminary Hill. The \$3800 needed for this project is one sixth of SHA's funds on hand. This issue will be discussed at the Strategic Planning meeting. A discussion ensued of how old a property needs to be to be considered historic. Bob Coulter suggested pursuing whether we can get the \$2000 from the Historic Alexandria Foundation grant, which was issued but never used.

Ken Elder, a resident of Key Drive, suggested that it may be useful to do his now to capture the data before this information is lost. Richard Dressner believes that the funds should be reserved for other uses. Dick Hobson described some of the historic properties in Seminary Hill area. Dick Hayes motioned to defer this issue until the Strategic Planning Meeting. Damon Wright supports. Frank Putzu seconded the motion and the motion was adopted. Cindy Gurne opposed the motion. Cindy Gurne made the point that this issue has been a priority issue for the board.

West End Business Association

Dick Hobson reported that we need to ensure that someone from SHA monitors the activities of the West End Business Association. Their issues are relevant to SHA (i.e. the Landmark Mall redevelopment). Richard Dressner suggested that Don Fullerton fulfil this role. Richard Dressner will approach Don Fullerton.

Status of the Strategic Planning Meeting

Potential dates and locations were discussed. January 30th at 3:00 PM was agreed upon, but the location is still to be pursued.

Status of the 2nd Presbyterian site development

Frank Putzu reported on this issue.

Varsity Park Parking Issues

Richard Dressner reported that residents from Seminary Forest and the other apartment buildings are parking in Varsity Park in the evenings and it is a nuisance problem. Greg Sutton, a developer of property in this area, wanted to prohibit street parking in his new development, but the current homeowners believed that such a parking prohibition would push the parking problems onto the other streets. The homeowners have pursued permit parking with a two hour limit for those not holding permits, because the 75 homeowners cannot all agree to no overnight street parking. Richard Dressner is not confident that they could get residential zone parking.

Open Space

Cindy Gurne reported that there is a January 30th deadline for open space nominations, including the Quaker View Pocket Park proposal.

Bill Dickinson, SHA past President, is on the Mayor's Advisory Board for Open Space. Cindy Gurne will send out an email to the SHA membership soliciting nominations.

Key Drive

Ken Elder of Key Drive reported on the stream along Key Drive, which currently does not seem to be wide enough to accommodate the run off from heavy rains. The neighbors are working with the city to have the stream widened and culverts added to accommodate the water. Basically, all the water from Seminary Hill runs into this stream. So they asking the city to do a study of the water run-off. Rich Baier will present this issue to City Council. Tom Kerester will serve as SHA's point of contact on this issue.

Police Facility

Concerns were expressed about the new location as a source of pressure for a connector to Eisenhower Avenue. A discussion of emergency access to the Eisenhower Valley ensued. Sargeant Bartlett explained that the Fairfax County Fire Department responds to some Eisenhower Valley calls. Sargeant Bartlett said that it would be beneficial to have everyone in the department in a single location. One of the advantages of the proposed location is that the city already owns part of the land and the vehicle maintenance facility is there, as well. Frank Putzu will get more information and report back to the board.

The Federation of Neighborhood Associations

Jack Sullivan, Dick Hobson or Bill Dickinson will make it a priority to attend the monthly meetings of the Federation of Neighborhood Associations and monthly reports to SHA will continue.

Open Space

Reports will continue on this issue monthly.

Hospital Expansion

Jack Sullivan will continue to monitor and report to SHA on this issue.

It was reported that the trash pick days will be changed. This change will be noted on the SHA website.

Cindy Gurne reported that Mary Hix told her that any questions on the VTS building project can be addressed to her.

Frank Putzu raised the issue of whether SHA wants to take a stand on major expenditures, such as the TC Williams project and the new police facility. This issue will be considered at the Strategic planing meeting

The next board meeting of the Seminary Hill Association will be held on February 15th at Immanuel on the Hill Church at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura F. Vetter
Secretary