

Seminary Hill Association Board
June 21, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM by Joe Gerard.

Joe Gerard, President and Vice President
Jack Sullivan, Treasurer
Laura Vetter, Secretary and EHS
Tom Kerester, Area 2
Dick Hobson, Area 3
Damon Wright, Area 4
Dick Hayes, Area 5
Richard Dressner, Area 8
Bob Coulter, Area 9
Carter Fleming, At-Large

Police Report

Sergeant Bartlett reported that is crime down 7.2% for the city and 10.8% for the Seminary Hill area. An arrest has been made in the pedestrian death on Duke Street. Dick Hayes inquired armed robberies in which suspects emerge from a car. David Cheney inquired about gang activity. Sergeant Bartlett responded that there is MS13 presence in Alexandria.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Sullivan reported a balance of \$21,116.46. A bill was received from Digital Phenom. Jack is concerned that the our website expenses seem to be increasing. Basic service cost \$25 per month. All other services are itemized. It is perceived that some of these additional services should be included in the basic service. This matter will be discussed at July meeting, when Cindy Gurne will be present. Details of the contract will be researched further and will discussed with Cindy.

Area Reports

Area 4:

Lisa Marie Cheney and David Cheney inquired about the Area 4 vacancy. It was explained that the position is currently held by Damon Wright, who will be moving from Area 4 to Area 9. The Cheneyes volunteered for the position of Area 4 representative.

Trash Pick Up:

Concerns have been expressed about trash and recycling service since it was contracted out this year. A discussion of the problems with trash pick-up ensued. Carter Fleming has contacted Councilman Smedberg about this issue and is waiting for more information from him. Councilman Smedberg said that the decision to contract out recycling pick-up was made to save money. Carter Fleming has observed that the trash cans are now emptied by hand by the former recycling workers, rather than by the mechanical trash

truck lift. As a result, sometimes a trash can is too heavy to be lifted and emptied. Joe Gerard will write a letter of concern to the city on this issue.

Current Issues

September Social Event/Recruiting Effort (including volunteer assignments, budget, permits, activities, etc.)

This event is scheduled for Sept. 24th. Inquiries will be made regarding obtaining a permit to serve beer. Richard Dressner opposes SHA hosting a party, because he believes that it diverts SHA from its mission. Joe Gerard supports the party as a recruitment tool. Jack Sullivan said that the organizers of the last SHA picnic were disappointed by the turn out. Richard Dressner believes SHA coalesces around political issues. Dick Hobson supports an SHA party as organizing and recruitment tool. No vote has been held on this issue and there are not enough members at tonight's meeting for a quorum. Bob Coulter does not believe that the Area Representatives will contact the homeowners to get the people to attend. Bob Coulter and Richard Dressner believe we should focus on turnout for the Annual Meeting.

Joe Gerard will take a vote by email on the party issue (i.e. support for, willingness to volunteer, and commit SHA money) Joe then surveyed the board members present. Dick Hayes does not support, but he will be willing to volunteer to support and SHA effort. Carter Fleming will be out of town. Tom Kerester opposes and will be out of town that date. Tom Kerester also opposes serving beer. Laura Vetter opposes, preferring to see our efforts put into the annual meeting, but will be willing to volunteer. Dick Hobson will be out of town. Cindy has lined someone for food, but the food would not be donated.

July Meeting

Cindy Gurne has lined up Councilmen Krupricka and Smedberg to attend our July meeting to discuss traffic. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 19th. Dick Hobson will check on space availability.

New Police Headquarters

Dick Hobson raised concerns about the proposed Wheeler Avenue police headquarters site based on an article which appeared in the Alexandria Gazette. Bill Dickinson reported on a poorly attended meeting at held at Bishop Ireton High School about the new police station site at Wheeler Avenue. According to Bill, the proposed building will cost \$300 per square foot to construct. Bill is not concerned about this proposed construction as a potential connector issue. Bill's concern is based on the cost and whether the facility is even necessary. The plan calls for a governmental complex (i.e. to include facilities for DASH). The new facility will extend from Wheeler Avenue to Roth Avenue. The biggest concern among those present is the impact on the budget. SHA needs to stay on top of this issue. Inquires made of Bill about the Multi-Sport stadium plan, which may be built off of Eisenhower Avenue at Henley Field. Dick Hobson

believes SHA should monitor the situation. Joe suggested that we invite city representatives of the city to attend our September meeting to discuss this issue. Bill suggested also inviting a member of the General Services Administration.

SHA Boundaries

Dick Hobson noted the by-laws were changed to adjust the outside perimeter of the SHA boundaries.

Campaign Signs

Mr. Cheney raised the concern that Mandala campaign signs are still up in public medians.

Open Space/Quaker View

Bill Dickinson mentioned that Quaker View will be discussed at this Thursday morning's meeting of the Open Space Committee. Bill has repeatedly deferred this issue hoping that SHA would generate more supporting documents and letters of support from the surrounding neighbors. Bill thinks Quaker View will do okay in the ranking process, but more supporting documents are needed (i.e. a letter of support from the adjacent church.) Bill suggested SHA say that the proposed pocket park be used by people throughout the city. Bill believes SHA's ecological argument is specious. The Open Space committee will rank the sites and the city will vote on them. The rankings hold significance for the city.

Bill Dickinson also reported that a meeting was held about the open space/park at the 2nd Presbyterian church site. According to Bill, the city's plan was overdesigned.

Brookville/Seminary Valley dealing with Area 8

Joe Gerard met with Cathy Burns of Polk Avenue, because they are getting organized on issues such as parking. The property at the corner of Polk and Pegram, consisting of 5 acres is for sale. There is a development plan for condos, single family homes and apartments at this site. The plan calls only for on street parking, making no other provisions for parking. SHA map was reviewed and it was determined that this falls within the SHA area. Joe described some of SHA's strategies to Cathy Burns on similar issues. On a separate matter, the homeowners would like to make a four way stop at the intersection of Polk and Pegram.

Quaker View

On behalf of Cindy Burne, Dick Hobson distributed a hand out, which is a draft of the information to be submitted to the Open Space Committee. The site made the first cut of the open space review committee. According to Dick Hobson, there is quite a bit of pedestrian traffic in this area. The current owner has not submitted a site plan, despite

rumors to the contrary. The next meeting of the Open Space Committee will be on Thursday morning. Jack Sullivan volunteered to attend the meeting, if it would help.

SHA Policy on donating money (report from Frank Putzu and Dick Hayes)

This issue has been studied by Frank Putzu and Dick Hayes. Dick opposes SHA donating money to unrelated charitable causes. According to Dick Hayes' interpretation of the SHA by-laws, SHA may not donate money to unrelated charitable causes. Frank Putzu reached the same conclusion. Dick Hobson raised the issue environmental issues, because environmental problems cross local boundaries. Jack Sullivan believes that SHA money should be retained for future battles. Jack Sullivan described legal expenses. Dick Hobson, Bob Coulter, Carter Fleming and Laura Vetter are in agreement that SHA money should not be donated to unrelated charitable causes. Richard Dressner also opposes such charitable donations by SHA, but sees other potential issues to give money to, such as the environment and transportation, which ultimately do affect the residents of Seminary Hill. Lisa Marie Cheney suggested a separate donation to SHA, beyond the annual dues, which would be distributed to local charities. Jack Sullivan described SHA giving money to oppose the plan to construct a stadium at Potomac Yard as an appropriate city wide example. Joe Gerard agrees and believes that there are other ways for SHA to obtain positive publicity i.e. through volunteering. Frank Putzu and Dick Hayes were thanked for their research. Dick Hayes' report will be endorsed by Dick Hobson at the next meeting, since a quorum was not reached at tonight's meeting.

New Issues

Dick Hayes reported that the house next to the fire station on Seminary Road is on the market. It is listed as having a 2nd kitchen, which is a possible code enforcement concern. This house seems to have been inhabited by multiple families. Richard Dressner's greatest concern is that the lot could go commercial.

Laura Vetter reported that Episcopal High School is proceeding with plans to construct two faculty residences in the Southeast quadrant of the campus and anticipates making it onto the docket for approval by the city in the fall. Laura offered that she may be contacted with any questions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Vetter
Secretary