

Seminary Hill Association
September 20,2005

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM.

Joe Gerard, President and Vice President
Laura Vetter, Secretary and EHS
Cindy Gurne, Communications Officer
Tom Kerester, Area 2
Dick Hobson, Area 3
Dick Hayes, Area 5
Pat Lidy, Area 7
Richard Dressner, Area 8
Mary Lewis Hix, VTS
Joe Fischer, At-Large
Bruce McCarthy, At-Large

Police Report

Sergeant Bartlett reported that the juvenile charged with stabbing two police officers will be charged as an adult and supplied more details on the incident. An inquiry was made about crime incidents in the area of Duke Street around Mango Mikes. Cindy Gurne inquired about police presence at TC Williams High School. Sgt. Bartlett explained that there is a police officer assigned to the high school. A discussion ensued about the safety issues of TC Williams High School with regard to students walking on the streets around the campus and potentially enforcing jaywalking ordinances. Cindy Gurne inquired about Alexandria police and fire workers, who might be volunteering in the Gulf Coast area. Sergeant Bartlett explained that plans are in place, but any action is awaiting FEMA approval before going to the area. Joe Fischer inquired about an evacuation plan for Alexandria. Sgt. Bartlett explained that there is a plan in place and a lot of discussion, but such a plan cannot be tested until a disaster hits the area.

Minutes

The July minutes were approved with changes.

2nd Presbyterian Church Property Update

Joe Fischer reported that the demolition is scheduled for October. The lots should be in place by the Spring. The developer is proceeding and the city's requirements have been satisfied. Bruce McCarthy will take pictures of the old home on the property. There will be no ingress or egress on Quaker Lane. The property went on the market three years ago today. A discussion of the length of the process for a by-right development ensued.

History Project Report

Bruce McCarthy reported on last week's meeting of the history committee. \$7500 comes from the city for this project in the value of the contributed volunteer time. Another \$2500 will be supplied by the Historic Alexandria Foundation will include a study of the

Hoof House. Dick Hobson and Bill Dickinson will interview Cooper Dawson. The History Committee wants to set up a table at the Annual Meeting to stimulate interest in the project. Cindy Gurne suggested making the Oral history interviews available on the website. The subjects will sign a release.

Quaker View

Cindy Gurne reported that today's meeting was deferred, because some believe that the process for prioritizing open space resources had been unclear, which has caused people to question the process. The fundamental issue of the process for selecting properties for open space and pocket parks has been challenged, so the entire process is on hold.

Area Reports

Area 2

Tom Kerester reported that there are many new families moving into his area. Concerns about speeding even though the speeding is occurring on dead end streets.

Area 7

Pat Lidy reported that there is nothing new to reported on Ivor Lane. The city is installing new plantings at Fort Ward Park.

Area 8

Richard Dressner reported that Hammond Middle School is looking better.

Joe Gerard came from a Seminary Valley meeting. He reports that traffic calming at Pegram and Pickett was discussed. There was a fatality at this area at the beginning of the summer.

Area 9

Bruce McCarthy reported that the Fort Williams Parkway traffic calming meeting is coming up.

Area 3

Dick Hobson reported that he is attempting to get the Quaker Hill townhouse association on board for the proposed pocket park.. Dick Hobson says we need to work with the civic association on Duke Street to try to improve the Duke Street corridor. Pedestrian use of Duke Street has increased, but sidewalks are limited due to the current construction of new townhomes.

Area 5

Dick Hayes reported on Wilson University saying that the house has been bought and there are many cabs parked there. Richard Dressner heard that the property has been bought, but the new owner is waiting to figure out what to do with property.

Episcopal High School

Laura reported for EHS on the two new faculty houses which are before City Council tonight.

Virginia Theological Seminary

Mary Hix reported that in late June someone entered and damaged the building, which houses the faculty offices. Shortly after the incident an individual was arrested and charged with breaking into other church buildings. Of the two new houses, one is almost ready for occupancy. A discussion ensued of open space, because VTS and the EHS have been identified as open space assets for the city. Mary explained that VTS is zoned

R-20, but can do nothing without a special use permit. Bill Dickinson shed some light on the city's open space efforts.

Joe Fischer reported that Mrs. Marks is concerned about the changes a neighbors is making with regard to topography. A developer is trying to sell the old Goodman property and is planning to also build an 8500 square foot home on a ¾ acre lot. Dick Hobson believes that there is no maximum square foot size for a home as long as it meets the house to lot size ratio.

Cindy Gurne reported on the Schmucher property saying that the Schmuchers will not proceed, because the city will not allow them to build a new driveway. Cindy reported that a builder has bought the houses near Strawberry Run with a plan to build million dollar plus houses, but the city is requiring the builder to build all the houses at one time. A discussion ensued of whether this area is in the SHA boundaries and how to work with them. Cindy also raised the concern of crossing Duke Street near Fort Williams Pkwy., suggestions include a walkover or a traffic light near the park. Joe Gerard suggested that it would easier to get a stop light, rather than a walkover. Additionally, he suggested a crosswalk with the imbedded pedestrian lights. Joe suggested finding out the community feelings on these issues.

Cindy Gurne put out a request for someone to head up the transportation committee. Cindy reported that the city's reports on pedestrians will be added to the SHA website.

Annual Meeting. November 17

Richard Dressner reported. The committee consists of Bob Coulter, Tom Kerester and Richard Dressner

Two Tasks have been identified: Develop agenda and implement tasks

Cindy requested to see the proposed agenda.

A suggestion was made to schedule our October meeting early to get us on track for organizing the annual meeting.

Dick Hobson raised the issue of rating our city leaders. Cindy Gurne opposes and Bruce McCarthy feels that this could be detrimental. Dick Hobson feels that this should not happen at the annual meeting. A discussion of the report card issue ensued.

The final agenda will be sent out by email and approved and actions will be assigned.

Dressner suggested that there be no Q&A session at the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will meet at the conclusion of tonight's meeting.

The October meeting will be scheduled for either the 4th or 11th.

The resident of 805 St. Stephen's Road handed put an article outlining the cost to educate each student in the Alexandria public school system. The city's next annual retreat will be devoted entirely to the budget. A discussion of the school system ensued. Bill Dickinson suggested that we need to hold the school board accountable. Good people need to be identified to run for the school board. Tom Kerester raised the ESL issue. A discussion ensued of how SHA can play a role on the issue of Alexandria schools.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Vetter

Secretary