

Seminary Hill Association
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2006

In Attendance

Jack Sullivan, President
Joanne Lepanto, Vice-President
Laura Vetter, Secretary and Episcopal High School
Cindy Gurne, Communications Officer and Area 4
Lillian Patterson, Area 1
Dick Hobson, Area 3
Dick Hayes, Area 5
Dave Cavanaugh, Area 9
Bruce McCarthy, At-Large
Carter Fleming, At-Large

Minutes

The June 20th meeting minutes were verbally presented by Bruce McCarthy on June 20th and were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Jack Sullivan reported a current balance \$22,554.06.

Police Report

In Sergeant Bartlett's absence, Dick Hayes reported on recent crime concerns in Alexandria.

The recent Foxchase peeping tom incidents are being addressed with greater police presence. It seems that there are different suspects in the incidents. Jack Sullivan described our appreciation of Sgt. Bartlett and the association's positive responses to a survey about Sgt. Bartlett's work.

Area Reports

Area 6

Nancy Jennings was elected as Area 6 representative.

Area 8

Don Fullerton was elected as Area 8 representative.

Area 3

Dick Hobson reported nothing new to report

Area 5

Dick Hayes commended the city for their response to the post storm clean-up in July.

Area 7

Jack Sullivan reported for Pat Lidy by asking everyone to visit the Burke Library to see the children's art work on the fence in the parking lot.

Area 9

Dave Cavanaugh reported nothing new to report.

Program

Presentation of city plans for upgrading Ft. Williams Park with participation from Calvert Homes developer: Aimee Vosper, Landscape Architecture Supervisor, Planning and Zoning, and Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, Watershed Program Administrator, T&ES

Strawberry Run

Laura Durham of Alexandria Parks and Recreation

Kelly Atkinson of the engineering firm

Blair Goodman

Katie Park

Representatives of the Developer.

Claudia Hamblin-Katnik described the requirements on developers to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act. The developer will engage in stream restoration of Strawberry Run as a part of its development off of Duke Street. She explained that this is an optimal way to address storm water run-off. These changes will encourage stream life and remove invasive species. Some trees will need to be removed to accommodate the stream restoration. There are no plans for improvements, such as benches and playground equipment, because the plan is to restore the natural habitat not playground development. This restoration program is considered positive for the city.

The concrete debris which was placed in the creek in the past by the city was discussed. Simply put, the rip rap debris has not fulfilled its intended purpose. Jack Sullivan said that SHA would be happy to see the rip rap removed. The outbuildings in the park will be removed. The developer will be encroaching into the RPA (Resource Protection Area), but the city is okay with due to the concessions that the developer has made, including stream restoration. The engineer explained that the RPA encroachment will not increase beyond the current encroachment. Jack Sullivan implored the developer to ensure that the developer inform the homeowners that they will not be able to build decks off of these homes. The developer explained that the issues of decks will be addressed in the covenant.

Cindy Gurne expressed the concerns of the neighbors and their desire to be involved with the planning process for Fort Williams Park. Laura Durham of Alexandria Parks and Recreation explained that the city's intention is to maintain the natural setting of the park. Overall, the city is in agreement with the developer regarding the plan for stream restoration.

Ms. Gurne inquired about building a children's park in this area. Laura Durham explained that there is no plan for a children's playground at this time. The proximity of

the stream makes this unlikely, but if pursued it would be handled through a separate process with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Dave Cavanaugh inquired about pedestrian access to Strawberry Run.

Claudia Hamblin-Katnik said that there does not appear to be a problem with dumping.

Ms. Hamblin-Katnik described potential Corps of Engineers planning for this and other streams in the area.

A discussion ensued of where Strawberry Run starts.

The current 13 lots will be subdivided into 12 lots as a part of this development. The deal between the city and developer is to be able to build within the existing RPA in exchange for stream restoration. Stream Restoration is the result of RPA negotiations. There will be some shared driveways to minimize the amount of impervious surface.

None of the houses have been sold yet and they are expected to sale in excess of \$1 million.

Cindy Gurne asked Laura Durham to explain the slight decrease in the amount of money budgeted for open space acquisition.

Dick Hobson asked Laura Durham about the proposed pocket park at Duke Street and Quaker Lane. Laura Durham described the status of the open space committee's work, saying that the property owners of the nominated properties have been contacted to ask if they are interested in being acquired for open space. As a result, the list is now shorter. Regarding the potential pocket park, Laura Durham explained that there is a concern about access and parking. Dick Hobson explained that the church will be approached to allow parking for a pocket park. Laura Durham anticipates this to be addressed at the October meeting. The docket list is not available until it is made public.

Mr. Malone was asked about the status of 2d Pres. He replied that the storm work is complete.

Old Business

Landmark Redevelopment

Dave Cavanaugh reported on the June 29th meeting. There has been no feedback on the meeting with the Planning Commission and representatives of Landmark Mall.

Transportation Task Force Report

The task force does not recommend Eisenhower Avenue connectors.

The Task Force proposes transit lines on the following streets: Route 1, Beauregard, and Duke Street

Jack Sullivan reported that a representative of the West End Business inquired about a grid system to Eisenhower Avenue, but this appears cost prohibitive.

A Landmark plan will not be approved until a transportation plan has been approved.

Historical Project

Bruce McCarthy reported that the project is not moving forward during its summer hiatus.

Lubavitch Synagogue

Jack Sullivan reported that the city has talked to the Rabbi, who explained that the school is not meeting in the home, rather it is meeting in rented space at Alexandria Commons. The Rabbi explained that the Shabbat services are very small. A neighbor reported that one of her students is a member of the synagogue and attends school in the house, not at Alexandria Commons, contradicting what the Rabbi told Jack Sullivan. The neighbors' observations contradict Jack Sullivan's report. The city has informed the Rabbi that the school may not meet in the home. A discussion of the amount of parking allowed in residential driveways ensued.

Traffic Calming

Bruce McCarthy reported that traffic calming has been approved for lower Ft. Worth and Col. Ellis. He says that the neighbors are supportive and will take this issue to the Seminary Ridge Association. He anticipates that this issue will go before the Transportation and Parking Board in September or October. Mr. McCarthy explained that some residents of Col. Ellis oppose traffic calming, so he is awaiting a plan for minimal traffic calming for Col. Ellis from city staff.

Joanne Lepanto expressed her objections to speed bumps and raised concerns about the definition of affected neighbors. Others expressed their objections to speed bumps and feelings that ultimately they are ineffective. Bruce McCarthy the process for traffic calming.

New Business

Membership Directory

Cindy Gurne reported on the status of the SHA membership directory and thanked Dorie for her help with the directory. Ms. Gurne explained that only current members will be listed. A discussion of the directory ensued. Joanne Lepanto raised the issue of the cost to produce the directory. Jack Sullivan asked for a cost estimate to produce the directory. Lillian Patterson stated that she does not see the value of a directory. Ms. Gurne believes that a directory can be used to build membership and strengthen SHA as an organization.

Other New Business

Dave Cavanaugh announced that a Heritage Trail guided bike tour, which is organized by the Office of Historic Alexandria, will be held on October 14th.

Cindy Gurne announced that a Fort Williams Park clean-up will be held on the first Saturday in November.

Jack Sullivan reported on the resolution reached regarding The Examiner newspaper. He shared that the newspaper may be called to opt out.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that the Quiznos at the Seminary Plaza shopping center has a new owner.

Mr. Sullivan also reported that the Temple Beth El has added an elder program. The participants in the program will be bussed to the synagogue. A bridge group and an aerobics group will also meet at the synagogue. Agenda Alexandria will no longer meet at the synagogue.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Vetter
Secretary