

Seminary Hill Association, Inc.
Monthly Meeting
Jan. 11th, 2007

President Joanne Lepanto called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. at Immanuel Church-on-the Hill. A quorum was present.

The minutes of December 14th, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer Jack Sullivan reported a balance of \$23,772.50 as of the end of 2006.

Capt. Hassan Aden, APD, provided a thorough and detailed report. A lot of bank robberies throughout the city, however, a prime suspect has been apprehended. Several tire slashings, car break-ins. Cindy Gurne chased a speeding car on Ft. Williams Parkway, was challenged by young driver. Ms. Lepanto asked about the efficacy of "Reverse 911s." Probably not necessary, Capt. Aden said, since Police Dept GPS system can call every house in an area if there is a crime emergency. Police non-emergency number is (703) 838-4444.

Mr. Hobson reported that the church has been secured for SHA meetings for the coming year. It was further reported that Mary Hix, Episcopal Seminary rep. is retiring, her services greatly appreciated. Margaret Goodman has agreed to serve as communications officer for the coming year - welcome Margaret!

The SHA website will be updated, Ms. Gurne said, asking for volunteers to assist. Lillian Patterson noted that the \$25,000 allocated for "Project Discovery", a program at T.C. Williams High School that encourages low-income students to visit and attend college, was up for renewal in the new school budget. (A subsequent newspaper article said that funding for the program was doubled to \$50,000.) Ms. Patterson also reported on a recent visit to the large new TC building now nearing completion.

Pat Lidy of Area 7 reported that the city is clearing the trees behind 4555 Seminary Road that were felled in last year's storms. She also reported that Fort Ward is getting new cannons!

President Lepanto announced that SHA Directories will be distributed only to members who request them. Nancy Jennings of Area 6 volunteered to handle the West End Historical Project after Ms. Lepanto said the project would be shut down if more support was not forthcoming.

Dave Cavanaugh reported on a meeting about the future of the Landmark Shopping Center, and a general discussion of Landmark and the Van Dom thoroughfare ensued. A very important element in the West End that must be carefully watched so that a vibrant, "people-oriented" environment will be promoted. Jack Sullivan and Dick Hobson are monitoring the project along with Dave.

Mr. Hobson advised the group that the proposed "pocket park" at Quaker Lane and Duke Streets came in 2nd among 10 sites around the city in terms of potential \$500,000 city funding - another meeting on Feb. 24th, hopefully with positive results. Ms. Gurne and others have also been active advocates for the park. There ensued a spirited discussion of the rationale for "pocket parks" - can city funds be used better elsewhere? Finally, Mr. Hobson moved, and Mr. McCarthy seconded, a motion of support by the board for the project which carried 10 to five.

Jack Sullivan noted that Rich Liebach, a long-time supporter of Seminary Hill interests, is leaving the Planning commission, with Mindy Lytle a possible replacement.

Tom Kerester asserted that, five years after 9/11, there still is no emergency preparedness plan in place for the city.

Ms. Lepanto adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

(Bruce E. McCarthy, Acting Secretary)