

**Seminary Hill Association  
Board of Directors Minutes**

September 21, 2004

The following Officers and Directors were present:

Frank Putzu, President  
Joe Gerard, Vice President  
Jack Sullivan, Treasurer  
Cindy Gurne, Communications Officer  
Laura Vetter (for Maggie Melson) Episcopal High School and Secretary  
Lillian S. Patterson, Area 1  
Tom Kerester, Area 2  
Richard Hobson, Area 3  
Damian Wright Area 4  
Dick Hayes, Area 5  
Pat Liddy, Area 7  
Bob Coulter, Area 9  
Charles Ablard, At-Large  
Joe Fischer, At-Large  
Mary Lewis Hix, Virginia Theological Seminary  
Bill Dickinson, Past President

**June Minutes**

Approved with changes.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jack Sullivan reported \$20,688.62 balance of total available funds as of 9/21/04.

**Police Report**

Sergeant Bartlett was present to answer questions. Sergeant Bartlett was thanked for traffic enforcement on Seminary Road. Sergeant Bartlett explained the procedures for reporting raccoons. Call the Police non-emergency number about raccoons, if seen after hours. Call the Animal shelter during the day. Open space was referenced in regard to wild animals.

Bob Coulter heard that someone was arrested for panhandling at the Seminary Road Exit from 395. According Bill Dickinson a license is required for pan-handling at the intersection of King Street, Quaker Lane, and Braddock Road. There was a discussion of the murder of a pizza delivery person and the arrest of two suspects.

Laura Vetter inquired about assigning a police officer to the King Street, Quaker Lane and Braddock Road intersection during the school year. According to Sergeant Bartlett, the officer assigned to this location during school hours is actually assigned to serve TC Williams High School and includes this intersection as part of his duties, but he has been deployed to Iraq and his position will be filled.

Discussion of the failure to stop at stop sign on Fort Williams Parkway initiated by Cindy Gurne.

## **Area Reports**

### Area 1:

Lillian Patterson reported on the TC Williams High School construction advisory committee meetings, which are attended by representatives of the affected neighborhood associations, the Department of Parks and Recreation, TC Williams High and the School Board. There is an effort to get the cost of construction down to \$87 million. Modulars will be arriving for 36 classrooms tomorrow and will be located on the football field. As a result, there will be no more home football games this year. Bill Dickinson heard that Episcopal High School's stadium will be used by TC Williams High School for home games. Construction will commence at Christmas break. Mark Wilkoff of the School Board will speak at SHA's annual meeting.

An inquiry was made about Hammond Middle School. Hammond Middle School's gym problems have been mitigated. Laura Vetter inquired about the asymmetrical track at Hammond Middle School. According to Frank Putzu and Joe Gerard, the track is supposed to be asymmetrical to resemble a walking path.

A discussion of school construction cost overruns ensued. Jack Sullivan is encouraging people to run for the school board, due to the problems he perceives with our current School Board representatives for our area. Dick Hobson suggested that we invite our School Board representatives to an SHA meeting. Dick Hobson made the point that MacArthur School is well thought of and served by the community.

### Area 2:

Tom Kerester reported nothing new to report.

### Area 3:

Dick Hobson will report on Quaker View later. The owners of the Smucker property (adjacent to the subdivision of Cooper Dawson's property) plan to subdivide to create one additional lot, so their son can build a house on the property. Dick Hobson is not aware of any objections from the neighbors, but he will inquire further. According to Dick Hobson, there is no risk that the driveway to be built will be turned into a through street. Bill Dickinson asked Dick Hobson to call Jeff Farner. Dick Hobson believes SHA should endorse the Smucker subdivision, if the affected neighbors are supportive.

### Area 4:

Damon Wright in attendance as the new Area 4 representative.

Area 5:

Dick Hayes reported on calling the city about an accident at the intersection Jordan and Pickett streets, because the property owner did not clean up the resulting debris. Wilson University looks like a the boarding house, because there are usually 8 vehicles in the driveway in the morning. According to Dick Hayes, every TC Williams High School student takes the SAT at the expense of the city, which he believes lowers the city SAT scores.

Area 6:

Carol Maxwell not present to report.

Area 7:

Pat Liddy Ivor Lane on the agenda.

Area 8:

Not present to report.

Area 9:

Bob Coulter reported that the Seminary Ridge summer picnic was well attended. Brian Moran will speak at the Seminary Ridge annual meeting in October. There is a meeting schedule for Tuesday Sept 18th to discuss traffic calming at Colonel Ellis and Ft Williams Parkway.

Charles Ablard reported on the initiative to establish a historic district on Seminary Hill. Help is needed to identify structures over 50 and over 100 year old on Seminary Hill. Cindy Gurne will circulate an email soliciting information on this subject. A discussion of older properties on Seminary Hill ensued.

Virginia Theological Seminary:

Mary Lewis Hix not present to report.

Episcopal High School:

Laura Vetter reported nothing new to report.

**Traffic Calming**

Frank Putzu introduced the subject of traffic calming by explaining that \$150,000 had been allocated by the City Council a year ago to address traffic calming in the area of Janneys Lane, Seminary Road and Quaker Lane. Then the money was specified to Janneys Lane due to MacArthur School, but the other areas were tabled. Ginny Hines Perry reported on the traffic calming plan for Janneys Lane from Yale Drive to West Taylor Run Parkway. The plan consists of medians and nine bulb outs and cross walks. The project will cost \$90,000. There will be no traffic calming on Janneys Lane outside of this area, because the neighbors could not reach a consensus.

Frank Putzu introduced Christine Michaelis to speak on the Seminary Road traffic calming efforts. \$60,000 is left for traffic calming. Frank Putzu is concerned about speeding on Seminary Road between Hammond Middle School and Quaker Lane. Drivers have been clocked driving as fast as 70 mph. Bob Coulter suggested inviting Rich Baier and Paul DeMaio to speak at an SHA meeting on this issue. According Christine Michaelis enforcement works, but the city lacks the resources for consistent enforcement. City Council member Rob Krupricka has been very responsive. Rob Krupricka suggested working through SHA. Alexandria has identified Seminary Road between Hammond Middle School and Quaker Lane as a speeding problem. Christine Michaelis introduced a petition, which she is circulating on this issue. The wording of the petition is general. Christine Michaelis showed the results of a stealth survey, which showed that Seminary Road is one of the fastest streets in the city. Christine made the point that, if people slowdown on Seminary Road, they will slowdown on Janneys Lane, as well. Dick Hayes is supportive and would like us to extend the effort to Library Lane. Bob Coulter explained the process. Frank Putzu supports this effort. Frank Putzu will write a letter and circulate it to the board for approval and to send to the city calling for a traffic study of Seminary Road between Library Lane and Quaker Lane. Christine made a distinction that traffic calming is not an option, because Seminary Road is an arterial. Ginny Hones Perry explained that Seminary Road and Janneys Lane are primary response routes for emergency vehicles. Joe Gerard recommended that we learn from what has been done on Janneys Lane. Cindy Gurne sees this as an overall problem for Seminary Hill. Christine Michaelis explained that neighborhood yard signs urging people to slow down are not encouraged by the city. Because Seminary Road is an arterial Rob Krupricka said we should go directly to the City Council for funds. Dick Hobson moved that Frank write a letter on this issue to the City Council. Discussion ensued about the of the allocation of the original \$150,000. Tom Kerester seconded Dick Hobson's motion, which was adopted.

### **Parking**

Frank introduced this issued. This problem has developed due to church rentals and adult education programs at Hammond Middle School, which has resulted in parking problems in Varsity Park. The adult ESL classes attract 200 students. Frank Putzu has attempted to work with city to limit parking to the back parking lot at Hammond Middle School, but the church has outgrown the facility. He also raised the issue of parking on LaSalle and Pickett Streets from Seminary Forest Residents to be solved either by stickered parking or no overnight parking. Frank expressed concerns that Seminary Forest apartments are in a state of decay. Dick Hobson suggested considering garage parking for Hammond Middle School. The city receives \$5000 per week for facility rental per group. This a problem both day and night. Bill Dickinson suggested forming a city parking authority to build structured parking.

### **West End Business Association**

Jack Sullivan forwarded an email to Frank Putzu from the West End Business Association, which expressed the feeling that they were outmaneuvered by the neighborhood associations on the Eisenhower Connector issue. As a result, they have formed an advocacy group to serve as a pro-connector group. Membership is open to any business in the West End. SHA is corporation. Could SHA join? SHA will consider getting home based businesses to join. Jack Sullivan suggested SHA should help with the \$80 fee to join. Bill Dickinson is incorporated. This group wants to use the term gateways, rather than connector.

### **Quaker View**

The city denied a request for rezoning. Cindy Gurne reported on the effort to purchase this property to turn it into a neighborhood park. Cindy Gurne wants to present this as a Duke Street collaborative project. Rob Krupricka said that the City Council will be discussing pocket parks. One task is to identify private sponsors, such as the American Trucking Association. Dick Hobson explained that the history of the Little River Turnpike and General Cooper could be interpreted. A general discussion of a potential park at this location ensued, including how the site would be interpreted. Dick Hobson will research the status of the property and the history before the next SHA meeting. Cindy Gurne suggested involving the Dike Street business community.

### **Ivor Lane**

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission voted to purchase the Ivor Lane property for open space for \$750,000 for 5.1 acres. Potential developers raised issues of potential problems of use by homeless people and parking. Both these concerns were addressed. Braddock Court homeowners support the open space plan, but want to ensure that there will not be access through Braddock Court. Pat Liddy also discussed plans to develop an adjacent property. Three people voted for this land purchase and two against. One vote against was cast by a property owner on West Braddock Road, who wants to sell his lot for building a home, but the his lot is land locked and on septic, so it cannot be built upon. Frank Putzu believes that this is a good deal for the city. Pat Liddy suggested that SHA be active in the upcoming meetings about what should be done with this newly acquired open space.

Frank Putzu raised concerns about the deteriorating condition of Seminary Forest Apartments. The city suspects that there are multiple families living in each unit. Frank Putzu wants to know what can be done to rehabilitate Seminary Forest, as Foxchase was turned around in the past. According to Cindy Gurne, there are non-profits devoted to turning around deteriorated rental housing, such as Seminary Forest. The problem of multiple families living in single unit is that demand for parking exceeds the spaces available in the parking lot. The parking problems show that the property is poorly managed. Frank Putzu will send a letter to Seminary Forest and a copy to City Council. Joe Gerard suggested a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the police and fire records for Seminary Forest Apartments. Dick motioned and approved the FOIA request.

### **SHA Executive Board Meeting**

Joe Fisher was thanked for hosting this meeting in his home. The annual meeting was discussed at the meeting. Frank Putzu discussed a mailing to the membership. Frank sought the spending authority from the board to spend up \$1500 for a membership mailing. A motion for funding was put forward and approved. Bill Dickinson suggested getting a map of the SHA area from the city and marking each SHA member on the map. Dick Hobson was nominated for the Nominating Committee. Carol Maxwell told Bill Dickinson that she would like resign from the Board. Bill Dickinson suggested including time for Q&A at the annual meeting.

### **Alexandria Hospital Expansion**

Jack Sullivan reported that Alexandria Hospital is to proceed with its emergency room expansion, but the expansion will more limited in scope.

### **Miscellaneous**

Jack Hersey resigned from SHA as the Area 4 representative. Dick Hobson moved that Damon Wright be appointed to serve as the representative for Area 4. The motion passed. Damon Wright's contact information is as follows:

119 Fort Williams Parkway

Alexandria, VA 22304

Phone: 703-823-9215

[stephwright@erols.com](mailto:stephwright@erols.com) or [stephwright@erols.com](mailto:stephwright@erols.com)

Cindy Gurne informed SHA about the upcoming walk for the homeless

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura F. Vetter, Secretary