

SGHOA Board Minutes for May 26, 2010

President John Pecic called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present, in addition to Pecic were members Gordon White, Donna Powers, Gary Gooch, Lisa Couture and Armstrong Representative Mike Blessing. Members Ed Collins and Dale Fletcher were absent.

Alexandria Police sergeant Tom Magyar was also present at this meeting. Magyar reported that there had been no notable crime within Summer's Grove in the past month. He said, a planned new fire station in the Eisenhower corridor was in the works, but may require moving the police vehicle impound lot and the firing range.

Present were three members of City Council, Vice-Mayor Kerry Donley and council members Paul Smedburg and Alicia Hughes, who discussed the 2010 approved City budget, real estate taxes and other issues, with residents and the Board members.

Councilwoman Hughes said she voted against the 2010 real estate tax increase, noting that City spending has doubled since 2005. While some of the costs, most notably contributions to the Virginia government workers' pension fund and to WAMATA (the Metro system) are beyond the City Council's control. She said, she was opposed to increases for consultants and certain other items which in her opinion were not properly documented.

In response to residents' statements regarding snow removal, street light, sidewalk and road costs, which Summer's Grove pays itself, while paying the same real estate taxes as other areas which get such City services, she promised to look into it as "an equity issue."

President Pecic noted that the increased traffic to serve the ethanol off-loading facility "is wearing out our roads." Recent repaving of Van Dorn Street.

Vice-Mayor Donley and Council members discussed the planned fire station, and the presently empty Victory Center office building, which Donley said was likely to be leased to a federal agency. When and if that happens, it could create a "critical mass" of commercial need for restaurants and shops in the Eisenhower Avenue area.

Both men said they would look into the issue of road maintenance in Summer's Grove, which City school buses are required to serve.

President Pecic reported that the sand, left from last winters' snow, had been swept up. He said that as final expenses for snow removal and cleanup of the damaged trees were not yet in, a decision on a special assessment to cover those extraordinary costs could not be made until the June meeting of the Board. There was some discussion of the need to move quickly on the assessment, but in the absence of accurate cost figures, it was put over until June.

The minutes of the April 2010, Board meeting were approved 3-0-1.

Mike Blessing said the pool would open on Saturday, May 29th.

A representative from the Victory Center has been invited to discuss the status of the center at our June meeting.

Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm. The next Board meeting will be held at 7 pm. on Tuesday June 29th, 2010. No July meeting is planned.

There was a brief executive session.

Respectfully Submitted, Gordon E. White, Secretary