

**Southampton Citizens Association  
Board Meeting  
February 17, 2009**

**Members Present:** Mary Blanchard, Rob Bryden, John Cardwell, Jeff Donahue, Jeanne Dorman, Greg Garrison, Dick Grinnan, Jean-Marie Hay, Wendy Inge, Bob Scott, Sue Stewart, Bert Waters, Jonathan Young

**Guests include:** Kathy Graziano, David Hathcock, Urchie Ellis, other neighbors

Minutes approved from previous meeting with corrections noted.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Cardwell reported that we currently have \$11030.06 in the bank.

**City Council:** David Hathcock reported that the Planning Commission last week unanimously supported the conservation easement for the James River, and will go before city council next Monday. Eight Council members have already endorsed the proposal. Kathy Graziano and the Huguenot Neighborhood Team cosponsored a presentation on the proposed Shockoe Center development, including ballpark, on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> with about seventy five people in attendance. There was an interesting and diverse exchange of views. A Fourth District Meeting was held on February 11, with the Finance Department presenting on tax assessments and tax relief for seniors and the disabled. A discussion ensued concerning the increased tax assessments in our neighborhood.

**Leaf Collection:** There was a lengthy discussion on the delayed and poor quality of leaf collection in Stratford Hills this year. Urchie suggested we let City Council know of our displeasure concerning the leaf pick-up in Stratford Hills this year. David mentioned that Dexter White, Director of Public Works, will give a report to the Land Use Committee, March 17 on this year's leaf collection. Mary will go to this meeting.

**Development:** A Marilea Road lot is being sub-divided. A section of Bliley and Forest Hill was a planned townhouse project, but has been voted down at City Council. There is concern that the first house behind the CITGO in Forest Hill Avenue and Cherokee is unsightly. John Cardwell has agreed to reach out to the resident first and then we may contact the owner. Greg started a discussion on our involvement with a sprucing up of Stratford Hills Shopping Center.

**Schools:** Jean Marie is going to meet with Adria Scott, our School Board representative, to discuss formal goals. There is interest in organizing an informal tour of the schools with local real estate agents.

**Transportation:** Jeanne sent a letter to Steve McNeely requesting the updated Huguenot Bridge reconstruction plan.  
[http://www.virginia.gov/projects/richmond/huguenot\\_bridge\\_reconstruction.asp](http://www.virginia.gov/projects/richmond/huguenot_bridge_reconstruction.asp).

David mentioned that City transportation engineers and surveyors have been working on preliminary plans which will widen Forest Hill Avenue from Powhite Parkway west to Hathaway Road to 5 lanes and may include curb and gutter, sidewalks, bike lanes and a closed storm sewer system.

**Communications:** Mary brought to the Board a request to advertise in our newsletter. The Board reached consensus that advertising would be allowed. A vote was not required for this decision. We then discussed the content of other neighborhood newsletters and websites.

**Other Business:** RiverFest has been canceled this year. However, we will sponsor the Wicked River Run 5K on the first Saturday of June. We decided to try to do something else that involves more neighbors. We will send out a mass email survey similar to the internal survey that was sent out the week before this meeting. We have two open Board slots and discussed potential recruits for the open positions.