

SSCAB Meeting Summary – January 11, 2016- DRAFT v03

Attendance

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|----------------------|
| ■ | Bernice North-Chair | ■ | Matthew Losak- Nbrhd | ■ | Sara Sheppard - TREE |
| ■ | Edward Levy –Vice-Chair | ■ | Abdurahman Mohammed | ■ | Jessica Simon |
| ■ | Mark Mendez -Secretary | ■ | Daniel Morales - SSUD | X | Monica Thammarath |
| ■ | Jonathan Bernstein - TREE | ■ | DeAndre Morrow -CED | ■ | Mary Ann Zimmerman |
| ■ | Stacey Brown - CED | ■ | Sigurd Neubauer | | |
| ■ | Phillip Dittner | ■ | Uri Pasternak | | |
| ■ | Jay Elvove | ■ | Abe Saffer | | |

Present: ■ Absent: X

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Chair Bernice North called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. *Acceptance of last meeting summary:* December 14, 2015 meeting minutes approved.
3. *Public Safety Report- Police:* Officer Berry of 3rd District Police report on activity of the past month
 - 12 larcenies – vehicle smash and grabs and one aggravated assault
 - Couple residential burglaries
 - 2 stolen vehicles.
 - Slight uptick in youth activity – ‘retaliation events’ that may be gang-related. Ofc Berry advises to watch for 15-19 year olds gathering as it may lead to fight or violence
 - Resident from The Crescents (across from Wayne Garage) spoke of incident where individual gained access to her building by following resident through building’s garage entrance and broke into autos.
4. *Public Safety Report_ Fire and Rescue:* There are four stations in the jurisdiction- #1-Georgia Ave in CBD, #2 –Takoma Park, #16 in Four Corners and #19 –Seminary Road. All stations experienced an increase in calls last year- from 5% for Station 19 to 11% for Stations 2 and 16, and 12% for Station 1 in Downtown Silver Spring. Nationwide Fire/Rescue calls go up with increase in density
 - Staff is now comprised of 1200 ‘career guys’ and some volunteer- mostly at Station 19. This is a reversal from past where lots of volunteers directed by smaller number of career staff.
 - Half of all homes in the area do not have working smoke alarms. In the past, Staff went door to door on Saturdays to promote message of safety and offer to check smoke alarms as part of ‘Safety in Neighborhood’s Program’. Public was not receptive to these impromptu weekend visits. Board members are encouraged to put out safety messages via our neighborhood and civic association channels.
5. *Councilmember(s) Updates:* Matt Verghese (Hucker) reported on topics as council comes out of vacation.
 - Levine School of Music to take on the second floor opportunity that Pyramid Atlantic had held. Levine to spend half-million dollars on space.
 - Governor’s budget forecast will be spending less on school instructions
 - Montgomery County to receive \$17M in GCI (Geographic Cost Index) an important piece of local education resources.
 - Purple Line update- County to choose from five bids within next 3 mos. MoCo’s portion of PL bill is \$200M

6. *Committee Reports:*

- CED – January meeting to address youth employment issues and potential non-profit and county partners.
- Neighborhoods-Ongoing study of Schools and student achievement
- TREE – Promoting BikeWays transportation meeting Feb 2

7. *Discussion of Budget Priorities: Regional Director* Reemberto Rodriguez explained budget process from series of public forums in January until County Executive presents proposed budget to County Council on March 15. SSCAB writes letter in February to provide input. Board can write first letter in February and then provide more detailed input in March. Board and public listed areas to support or points to consider:

- Rental Housing- quality and affordability with adequate code enforcement.
- Road Infrastructure repair received support from multiple members
- Renter assistance funds to temporarily support those who have lost wages
- Govt response is not modernized- request to support efforts of Innovation Department
- Funding to accommodate changing demographics- 1) translation of county materials into multiple languages and 2)improved access and promotion of healthcare options
- Enhance bikeways and pedestrian safety measure
- Youth activities beyond MCPS
- Economic Development to support small businesses – potentially displaced by Purple Line
- Increase Staffing at libraries
- Support for Non-profits that have shown expertise and leadership
- Encourage creative use of school properties to address lack of MCPS construction funding. MCPS can find attractive leasing options in commercial sector for admin staff located at former schools like Lynbrook providing opportunity to use properties for education again.

8. *Board Chair's Report:* Bernice North commented on topics for February meeting:

- March meeting will be off-site

9. *Director's Report:* Reemberto Rodriguez

- Urban District had invited other advisory boards to January 21 meeting to share their budget priorities and look for common themes.
- With dramatic increase in population and properties, residential population in downtown is larger than most civic organizations represented in SSCAB. Is it time for a “Downtown Silver Spring Neighbor Association”?

10. *Adjourn:* 9:05