

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
March 20, 2014

Members Present: Carmen Camacho, Don Hague, Jon Lourie, Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

Members Absent: Ernest Bland, Dan Figueroa, Dimitri Michaud, Yuri Van Mierlo

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Mel Tull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

New Business:

- Silver Spring was named the 13th most exciting suburb in the nation from a survey done by *Business Insider*.
- Ms. Carmen Camacho asked about changes made to external signage in the plans for Ellsworth Place (aka City Place). Committee members discussed the specific aspects of the signage that did not fit with current downtown Silver Spring signage styles. Mr. Bauman reviewed the timeline of development for the signs, and stated that the Arts & Entertainment advisory group has approved the sign designs. Petrie Ross is currently waiting for final approval from the sign review board.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Alan Felsen, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- Lt. Felsen reported that there are currently no serious crime trends in the Silver Spring area.
- Lt. Felsen reported that the 3rd District's Community Action Team will increase in staff numbers. The Community Action Team is a high visibility patrol that focuses on crime hot spots. The team currently has a Sergeant, a Corporal, and 3 officers. After the selections are made it will have a Sergeant, Corporal, and 5 officers.
- The District 3 Bike Team will have its staff numbers increased when the current group of academy recruits graduates in May.
- The new police station has a tentative ribbon cutting date for May of this year.
- Lt. Felsen stated that there has been an increase in graffiti.

Urban District Report

Ms. Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Ms. Freeman mentioned the increase in graffiti in the downtown area, and said that the Urban District had recently removed over 25 tags.
- Ms. Freeman stated that the Urban District has restructured its snow removal process. The SSUD “Red Shirt” team now begins work in the core of the CBD and works their way to the outer boundaries. Red Shirt staff members begin shoveling at crosswalks, bus stops and certain walkways. The Urban District’s priorities are crosswalks and ADA ramps, as well as Spring St. & the Burlington Bridge.
- The Urban District distributes flyers to businesses reminding them to clear their entire sidewalk of snow, rather than just a narrow walkway.
- Ms. Carmen Camacho asked if there were landlords that were not following the County law of clearing their sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall. Ms. Freeman said that she has been in contact with them and is working to address the problem.
- A citizen suggested that the Urban District coordinate with plow operators to find out when they will be plowing streets and subsequently avoid shoveling areas more than once. Ms. Freeman said that she had attempted to do so in the past but with so many different contractors operating the plows it is challenging. The Red Shirt team currently uses snow blowers to increase the speed of snow removal.
- The Department of Transportation has a list of priorities for sidewalk repairs in the downtown area. Mr. Mel Tull asked if these were repairs to existing walkways or areas that needed a completely new sidewalk. Ms. Freeman stated that these are mostly repairs and adjustments to existing sidewalks.
- Mr. Tull also suggested compiling a design & plan for the sidewalks to be sent to the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission for incorporation into the Silver Spring streetscape plans.

Silver Spring Regional Area Director’s Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- The Purple Line project is 30% designed and currently undergoing its Park & Planning mandatory referral. The referral is a set of presentations and testimony related to numerous aspects of the Purple Line.
- The Citizens Advisory Board meets on Monday, March 24th to discuss placemaking in downtown Silver Spring, including the transitional use of the green space near the Silver Spring Transit Center and other issues.

- The Taste of Fenton Village will be held on Sunday, May 4th, 2014. This is the event's 5th year.

Pedestrian Mobility & Safety in Downtown Silver Spring

Jeff Dunckel & Andrew Bossi, MCG DOT - Dustin Kuzan & Dave Murnan, SHA

- Mr. Jeff Dunckel reviewed the Department of Transportation's pedestrian safety initiative program.
- Fenton St., Georgia Ave. & Colesville Rd. are high incidence areas for the Central Business District.
- DOT has worked to increase crosswalk markings, street lighting and improve signage at their identified high incidence areas.
- Approximately 1/3 of crashes are due to turning vehicles. DOT has worked to improve signal timing and construct medians to reduce these accidents.
- Mr. Murnan reviewed the list of short-term items to be addressed in their road safety audit of US-29/Colesville Rd. in the coming months.
- SHA's Highway Development team will conduct a study of US-29/Colesville Rd. & Georgia Ave., as well as US-29/Colesville Rd. & Spring St.
- Georgia Ave. will be resurfaced from the DC line to 16th St. New high visibility crosswalks will be installed at previously identified intersections from the DC line to Spring St., as well as at the intersection of Colesville Rd. & Fenton St.
- A citizen asked about the intersection at Georgia Ave. & Fenwick Ln., citing sight line issues and the lack of a crosswalk. He asked if Fenwick Ln. would be included in the road safety audit. Mr. Murnan stated that Fenwick Ln. is not included in the current road safety audit (but that they would take a look at the intersection).
- Committee members discussed other intersections that are in need of traffic studies and various improvements. Ms. Freeman suggested a separate meeting for SHA and DOT representatives to get together to identify and address additional areas that require attention.
- The traffic signals at Cameron St. and at Spring St. are being reconstructed later this spring.

- Mr. Andrew Bossi spoke briefly about the pedestrian road safety audit for Fenton St. Fenton St.'s resurfacing project is tentatively set for some time after July of this year.

SSUD Budget Updates

Helen Vallone, Senior Management and Budget Specialist, MCG OMB

- Ms. Vallone discussed the changes to the Silver Spring Urban District budget, including the cost increase due to personnel changes of moving 19 "temp" employees to "permanent" merit status.
- Public hearings for the operating budget will take place on April 8th, 9th and 10th at the Council Office Building.
- The County Executive's meeting with the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee was rescheduled due to snow.
- Part of the difference in the Silver Spring Urban District budget from last year and this year are one time expenses from FY14 that did not have a fiscal impact in FY15.
- Committee members and Ms. Jane Reddicker asked about two \$1.1 million line items transferring Parking Lot District (PLD) funds to the General Fund for the next 15 years. Ms. Vallone said that she will investigate and get back to members of the committee.
- The committee agreed to write a letter to advise the County Executive against the PLD transfer to the General Fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.