

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 20, 2012

Call to Order and Introductions:

The monthly meeting of the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee was held on September 20, 2012. The meeting convened at 3:50 p.m., Chairperson Ernest Bland presiding.

Members Present:

Ernest Bland, Jessica Evans, Don Hague, Jon Lourie, Julie Statland, Melvin Tull,

Members Not in Attendance:

Carmen Camacho, Tiffany Graham-Golden,
Yuri Van Mierlo

Motion:

Motion was made by Mr. Ernest Bland and seconded by Julie Statland to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2012 meeting. Motion carried by the majority of members present.

Motion:

Motion was made by Ms. Julie Statland and seconded by Mr. Ernest Bland to write a letter to Mr. Leggett in reference to the project plan for the Studio Plaza/Fenton Village site.

Motion:

Motion was made by Mr. Ernest Bland and seconded by Mr. Mel Tull to write a letter to the Council to advocate funding for the operations of the new Progress Place so that they may have more beds for the homeless. Motion carried by all members present.

Reports:

Lt. Robert Carter, Deputy Commander, MCPD 3rd District
Police Report:

- Lt. Carter and Lt. Hattenburg reported that the moving date for the 3rd District Police Station will be December 2013.
- Lt. Carter and Lt. Hattenburg reported that the bicycle program will remain in the downtown Silver Spring area.
- Lt. Carter introduced Lt. Elizabeth Hattenburg who will be taking his place at the 3rd Police Precinct.

Community Visions/Progress Place:

- Ms. Priscilla Fox-Morrill reported that Progress Place is only a seasonal shelter which closes in April because the County will not fund them past April. Their budget at present is \$40,000 a month. When they have an overflow of residents they refer them to the shelters in Up-County. The plan is to have a separate space for overflow residents when the new building is built.
- Ms. Fox-Morrill reported that there is some permanent housing operated by HUD. In order to qualify for HUD housing an individual must pay a small fee and be chronically homeless.
- Ms. Fox-Morrill asked the SSUDAC to advocate for funding for operations in the new building.

Mr. David Dise
Director for Montgomery County's
Department of General services

Progress Place: Project is not in the CIP; but negotiating with Washington Properties. Washington Properties would obtain current Progress Place site and adjacent PLD surface parking lot, and will build a new Progress Place. Interfaith Works/Community Vision and Shepherds Table had already developed Program of Operations Requirements. The POR does not include a housing component. Although still in negotiation, the concept plan and architects work could be completed within a year, and construction completed in 2 ½ years.

New Library: Permits have been obtained and bids already requested from pre-qualified contractors are due in mid-October. Groundbreaking is anticipated in mid-November. The project which will take 2 years to build will be one story lower and will not include the bridge.

New 3rd District Police Station: About 14 months to completion and relocation.

Disposition Process for existing 3rd District Police Station and existing Library: Properties will be offered for re-use first to other County agencies, then to other government entities such as Park & Planning, following a hierarchy established in law/regulation. Both sites have been talked about a great deal and are expected to be picked up by other County agencies or government entities.

Transit Center: Concrete thickness and cracking issues are on mid-level (330 ft) and upper level (350 ft). Engineering analysis report by KCE is expected by the end of the year. Goal is to have a solution determined by April 2013, with work on correction done over the spring-summer, and opening next year.

Civic Building: DGS is recruiting for 2 new maintenance staff positions for the Civic Building and other County-owned buildings in downtown Silver Spring that were included in the FY13 budget.

Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, SSUD

Urban District Report:

- Ms. Freeman reported that the Urban District has had a summer long problem with a large amount of graffiti in the CBD. The SSUD worked with property owners to remove the graffiti.
- There was a large wasp nest which was taken care of by the Silver Spring Urban District's pest control contractor.
- An ongoing issue with excessive bird droppings along Kennett St. in south Silver Spring required daily power washing for much of the summer.

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, SSRC

Regional Center Report:

- Mr. Rodriguez advised committee members to contact him if they have any questions about the e-blast that he sends out.
- Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Jazz Festival was very successful with more than 5,000 people in attendance.
- Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Latin Film Festival at AFI starts September 20 to October 10.
- Mr. Rodriguez reported that the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board will be holding a meeting regarding public space.

Mr. Don Hague made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned, which was seconded by Ms. Julie Statland.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.