

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes April 21, 2011

Call to Order and Introductions: Jennifer Nettles, Chair called meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. members and attendees introduced themselves. There is a new board member Jessica Evans who is a resident of downtown Silver Spring.

Motion: (J. Nettles, M. Tull) the minutes from the March 17, 2011 meeting will be held until the next meeting, May 19, 2011.

Police Report:

There were three reports of people being shot with BB guns; an investigator has been assigned to look into this.

It was noted that the board needs to keep abreast of the police budget.

Chair's Report:

Telephone Report- She is still waiting to hear from the cell phone people.

Board members up for renewal need to let the Advisory Committee know if they plan to renew.

Montgomery County's Community Service Report:

They are looking for volunteers for the community Service Week, which will be held the week of October 16-22, 2011, in honor of Montgomery County's 25th Anniversary of Community Service Day. Volunteers can Sign up during the months of August and September. One can sign up thru their web site:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer

Carmen Camacho advised them that their web site was not user friendly and needed to be reworked.

WSSC update on Projects in Silver Spring:

They are handing complaints from citizens about several water main replacement projects going on in Silver Spring. Mr. Brandon Steward is the customer advocate and he is trying to be pro-active in getting old pipes repaired before they break. The question was raised in reference to the amount of streets that need to be repaved and not just patched over, (7911 Chicago Ave). Montgomery County is responsible for the re-pavement of the area they are doing restoration work on. It was decided that Yvette Freeman of the Silver Spring Urban district would send a list of streets that we have questions about, and she will be the contact person.

There is an emergency 24/7 number for WSSC: 301-206-4002 if a resident is having a problem. There is also a number to call if you want to check on your water quality: 301-206-7575 .

Baptist Church Project:

They are trying to make sure that the site of the new apartment building will have more space on the lot for the church. The church will stay at its present location. Design changes were made to make sure everything would fit into the space. The work on the apartment building should start around the year 2013. The Silver Spring Historic Society tried to acquire Historic Preservation status for the church but it was rejected.

Motion: (J, Neetle, J. Statland, Unanimous) J. Nettles will send a letter to the County Executive asking him not to endorse making The First Baptist Church an historic site.

Urban District Report:

Yvette Freeman reported that the DOC weekender project is doing well, she is getting more workers and they are making an impact.

Yvette met with SHA, SHA's contractor, staff from Montgomery County Traffic and Operations, and Pepco to trouble shoot serious issues that exist at the corner of Colesville and Georgia Ave. they are working toward a solution.

J. Nettles was concerned about the number of homeless people living in tents behind established business where it seems the landlord of these properties are allowing them to set up. She wanted to know if the property owners can be fined. Reemberto R. and Yvette F. will contact the county to see if they are doing anything about this issue and to find out how we need to proceed to stop this from continuing.

Civic Building Report:

Gwen is trying to recruit more than just students as volunteers for the Civic Building, as she prepares for changes in staff. She is planning to train the volunteers to have a higher level of knowledge about the Civic Building. Gwen has retained a volunteer Management Consultant through the Volunteer Center's Pro Bono Program to help with this. She has also started doing customer services surveys for the Civic Building.

Regional Center Report:

Reemberto reported that all the parking lots will have the pay by cell phone ability and over the next two weeks the sidewalk meters will have the same ability. Flyers will be distributed throughout the downtown Silver Spring area informing residents of this change and an ad in the Gazette will run next week. There will also be an e-mail blast to inform residents of the changes.

The Silver Spring Swings Thursday night concert series will start up again and the Recreation Department will be giving their support.

Fenton Village: Taste of the world will be held on May 15, 2011 with over 21 restaurants participating.

The Civic building is exceeding revenue expectations.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:45pm