

## SSCAB Meeting Summary – March 14, 2016- **DRAFT v02**

### Attendance

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

Present: ■ Absent: X

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Vice Chair Ed Levy called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
2. *Welcome Comments:* Morris Buster, Director for the Long Branch Community Recreation Center, described the center’s programs and the area demographics.
3. *Review of last meeting summary:* without a quorum, board postpone vote on Feb 8, 2016 meeting minutes until April meeting.
4. *Public Safety Report- Police:* Officers Ian Clark and Peter Muollo, 3rd District Police reported on activity of the past month within the larger Silver Spring area represented by the board
  - 5 robberies, 5 commercial and 14 residential burglaries (several in Piney Branch/Hillandale)
  - 31 thefts from autos including 8 in county garages in which vehicles were left unlocked. The number of thefts from autos is dropping- better education to the public.
  - 33 drug arrests. Incidents involving ‘K2’-synthetic marijuana –are on the rise
  - 5 guns seized by police from downtown Silver Spring in past month. Offenders were a mix of adults/teens/DC residents/MD residents.
  - Board member asked about communication protocol at recent incident at apartment complex with extensive police and EMS response but no information on ‘what was going on’. They were responding to a report of a deceased resident. Officer Muollo noted that DOAs must be treated as a potential crime scene until more information is obtained. There are also privacy issues where next of kin must be found and informed. Officer Clark suggested a better question to ask police would be “Is the community at risk?”
5. *Public Safety Report- Fire and Rescue:* Chief John Van Gieson reported
  - New smoke detectors have batteries that last 10 years. As part of increased community outreach efforts, County will provide new smoke detectors at no cost. See link for ‘Community Service’ on web site.
  - Looking to reach non-English speaking residents. The Department is holding focus groups in Gaithersburg to identify gaps in community education. Board member Abdurahman Mohammed offered to assist with Ethiopian community in Takoma Park.
6. Conversation with District 5 County Councilmember, Tom Hucker.
  - Thanked the board for their service and welcomed four new members.

- Watch for RFP for disposition of old Silver Spring Library building on Colesville Road. Tom feels that there should be renewed discussion on potential uses.
- Pleased with support for the proposal of a series of bike lanes through Silver Spring. First place in county to have this kind of network.
- Reported on the Snow removal review which offered mixed results of county's performance after large storm in January. There was a lag in search results for residents looking for plowing progress which led to 311 System being overloaded. Suggested the county look at NYC's GIS real-time tracking systems. Kudos to county for suspending parking garage restrictions that allowed residents to get cars off the streets. Sidewalks were cleared better than in the past.
- Organized multi-agency workgroup to improve 16th street Circle. Workgroup looking for short term/medium/long-term solutions. DC to pay for initial engineering costs. Single jurisdiction (DC) will run all signals regardless of DC or MD locations.
- Studying student loans which have now outpaced credit card debt to the tune of \$1.2T in Maryland. Some states allow for refinancing of student loans to take advantage of dropping rates.
- On the relationship with Planning Board and proposed Sector plans, county sees benefit of building transit oriented development, but has obligation to hear concerns of current residents. Council is scaling back proposed density in Westbard section of Bethesda and retaining the businesses in the industrial area.
- On Route 29 BRT, the new proposals to use the shoulders are less costly and quicker to build. Also Howard County is willing to support the cost.

7. *Councilmember(s) Updates:* Debbie Spielberg (Elrich) reported:

- Tenant Bill 19:15 coming back for council consideration.
- County Executive's operating budget going to council.
- Councilmember Elrich states the county's existing sector plans already accommodate the projected population growth. Visit Elrich webpage to hear conversation with Paul Desjardin, the Director of the Office of Community Planning at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

8. *Discussion on Revising SSCAB By-laws:* At August board meeting, it was agreed that the bylaws should be reviewed. DeAndre Morrow noted that these bylaws drafted in 2006 are fundamentally sound. He has suggested minor changes in language to section #6 to clarify the definition of 'conflicts of interest' and other specifics. Board discussed naming a committee to study the bylaws but couldn't approve due to lack of a quorum.

9. *New Business:* Four residents asked the board to consider their grievances of the mid-block bus shelter in front the Crescent Condominiums (930 Wayne Ave). The bus stop was supposed to be temporary. It is a safety concern because of pedestrians crossing mid-block without the aid of traffic signals. The bus stop's proximity to the building's driveway also puts pedestrians in conflict with car's exiting the Crescent. The adjacent Pho restaurant is experiencing commuters occupying their outdoor tables and leaving trash behind. Crescent residents were commended for the thoroughness of their presentation. Board will consider steps to review and support the request.

10. *Committee Reports:*

- CED – February’s meeting looked at youth employment issues and youth services. Board is encouraged to attend the Youth Job Fair at the Civic Center scheduled for 3/19.
- TREE – Bike/Pedestrian topics
- Neighborhoods –Continues with conversation on education and student achievement. Jill Ortman-Fouse and PTA members with deep knowledge of topic invited to participate.

*11. Board Chair’s Report:* Vice Chair ED Levy commented on topics for upcoming meetings:

- April meeting will be on first Monday (4/4) and will feature non-profits.
- June meeting to look at Adventist Hospital relocation and other Takoma Park topics.
- There will be no March committee meetings

*12. Director’s Report:* Reemberto Rodriguez

- Called attention to the Electronic Newsletter Refresh and praised the quality of Blair High school student paper ‘Silver Chips’. Offers quality local news coverage that is missing since the Gazette’s departure.
- TripAdvisor picked Silver Spring as one of its top 11 Awesome Urban Districts in the country.
- Watch for and support CASA’s series of workshops for small business who will be facing changes and challenges with construction phases of BRT and Purple Line.

*13. Adjourn:* 9:10