

SSCAB Meeting Summary – December 9, 2019- v03

Attendance

X	Matthew Losak–Chair	■	John Seelke - Ngbhoods	■	Sofia Bushen
■	Michelle Desiderio Foster – Vice Chair and TREE	■	Katherine McKay -	■	Janice Marquez
■	Mark Mendez -Secretary	■	Jay Elvove	X	Daniel Moijueh
■	Lysette House Parliamentarian / Ngbhoods	■	Patricia Germann	X	Debra Wylie
■	Ed Levy	X	Delia Aguilar		
■	Uri Pasternak	■	Don Slater - TREE		
■	Mulegeta Habteselassie- CED	X	Melanie Fonder Kaye		

Present: ■ Absent: X Resigned: R

1. 7:05 *Welcome and self-introductions*: Vice Chair **Michelle Desiderio Foster** called meeting to order.
2. *Acceptance of previous meeting summary*: November minutes were approved.
3. *Fire Safety for the Holidays*: **Charles Bailey**, MCFRS Division Chief of Human Resources, reported on a variety of winter fire hazards including fireplace ashes, space heaters and Christmas trees. MCFRS provides scheduled home safety inspections on weekends. Chief Bailey, noting the surge in light weight, wood residential construction in the area, would like to add resources or move them to the downtown area.
4. *Neighborhood/Community Spotlight*: **Laura Barclay** reported on the Old Takoma Business Association, a cross jurisdictional, 501C3 organization that promotes street-front businesses near the Takoma Park Metro station. They organize a variety of events through the year. Their biggest challenge is competing with better-funded districts like downtown Silver Spring.
5. *Education Conversation* focusing on MCPS boundary study, opportunity gap and educational inequities was moderated by **John Seelke**. Panelists included: **Brian Kramer**, a Northwood graduate and current American University student; **Chris Wilhelm**, ESOL teacher at Northwood; and **Lynne Harris**, teacher at Edison’s technology health program and MCCPTA President. The board engaged in a broad ranging discussion of education topics. Ms. Harris confirmed that MCPS is ‘a highly diverse school system, but not a system of diverse schools’. The speakers agreed the current boundary study came about because students pressed the school board. The overall feeling was that a comprehensive, objective, expert-driven study can only produce benefits – or at least the option to take advantage of potential benefits. It was commented that other school systems review boundary issues on a regular basis to assess resource allocation. The report is due in May 2020. Updates and news are posted here: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/>
Montgomery County is looking at the idea of hiring an inspector general focused solely on Montgomery County Public Schools. The independent IG would oversee school expenditures/budget.
6. *Committee Meetings Report*:
 - TREE/Neighborhoods hosted a joint meeting on 11/25 on the pedestrian safety initiative, ‘Vision Zero’. The meeting was well-attended and covered by NBC4.
 - Neighborhoods is planning a January meeting on ‘Place making’ in Downtown Silver Spring.
 - TREE will host a meeting next month on waste management, composting and recycling programs

- CED: No report.
7. Councilmember Reports: **Pete Tamayo** of Evan Glass's staff promoted the upcoming 12/14 Vision Zero town hall in Rockville.
 8. *Adjourn:* 8:50 PM

Upcoming meetings: No committee meetings scheduled for December. The next full board meeting will be held January 13, 2020.