

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board
Feb. 12, 2024
Minutes

7:05 p.m. – Ken Lemberg called to order

7:08 p.m. – Introductions/around the room concluded, Ken intro'd CM Kate Stewart, VP

7:09 p.m. – CM Stewart

- Three bills to highlight
 - FAITH – zoning text amendment to address housing supply (all Council members cosponsored) Public hearing scheduled for Feb. 27. Release [HERE](#).
 - Tenant protection and notification bill. This wk'd will be the one-year anniversary of Arrive fire. Also cited The Grand incident in August 2023. Bill will do a few things – update code that if it gets above 80 degrees, landlord has to fix it. Insurance – so that people have renter's insurance (Arrive – people had signed for landlord's insurance not their own). Fire prevention information so people need to know if there are sprinklers, evacuation plans, etc. Requires notices for specific incidents, inc. outages. [See MYMCM article [HERE](#)]
 - Late night businesses bill to look at the differences in hours 2 a.m. – 7 a.m., particularly in Silver Spring. Bring parity across all the businesses across the area – all need to close at 2 or 3 a.m.
- Other notes
 - Highlight – we have been working really hard on cameras in garages. Promised but not in CE budget last year; now have appropriation and moving forward.
 - Car meet-ups – Number of pieces of legislation in Annapolis in process. Del Wilkins, others on D20 team looking at the penalties for negligent and reckless driving; MD are much lower than other jurisdictions. Everyone in the DMV area is having this issue, hold MoCo up as an example of being proactive.
 - Happy to discuss some other issues re unhoused, work with Progress Place, etc.
 - Special appropriations from CE office have increased during COVID. Eight months ago, took a step back to see if it is taking money out of reserve funds it has to come out of the relevant committee + fiscal committee.
 - Also serves as Chair of Audit Committee – noted last week's Ed hearing on MCPS, IG report
 - Transportation & Environment Committee – last year focus on pedestrian safety. This year is going to be on building energy performance standards.
 - LGBTQ+ health, particularly trans health care, we are a desert when it comes to trans health care

7:30 p.m.

- Board member Q&A
 - Jeff – when should we expect deployment of cameras

- MCPD – going to try to further up staffing so they are dedicated to the parking garages until we get cameras up and running
- Debra Wylie – Legislation re landlords legislation
 - Laws that regulate generators, etc. are actually state laws, we focused on the part of the code where landlords have to give notification which is separate from enforcement
- New member question on unhoused – more specifics? Another member followed up with a question about what to do when an unhoused person is inside a building just outside their door.
 - Had seen a decrease but as COVID funding dried up and procedures changed we've seen more and more unhoused, ref last year's PIT numbers increase. Cited database coordinating records between agencies/nonprofits.
 - Jacob noted "Help is Within Reach" campaign – add numbers/infographic
- Lene – have we talked/is there a study about what has changed since the pandemic re unhoused? Something to educate the public/orgs, etc.
 - Housing shortage is one of the main drivers. We have so many families that are houseless right now – if anyone sees a family that is in need the county will find them a place. Substance abuse, mental health is complicated – mental health usually exacerbated by housing. LGBTQ+, trans without homes because they get kicked out. Domestic violence.
- Ken – energy performance standards – expand
 - Buildings need to do benchmarks of the energy that they use (oversimplification); goal setting and how help companies to reach them
- Fireworks on Christmas Eve – these felt like you were in a war zone – everyone was calling 911 – staffing an issue. Is it still an issue? How to help people understand who to call in what case.
 - They are very understaffed and it's very difficult to recruit and retain. They track those response times very closely. Had 146 calls for service in a very short time. (All coming through 911, v 311)
 - Fireworks fall under fire department but the calls go through the police department. Increased messaging for New Year's – based on where calls came in from Christmas Eve
 - It's not a budget problem, it's a recruitment problem
 - Stewart noted the inc in pension benefits

8:01 p.m.

- Dr. Rogers presentation – the 10 Essential Public Health Services
 - Community Health Needs Assessment findings
 - Virtual town hall next Wednesday at 3p.m. – Healthy Montgomery website to register
 - CTA: Share materials, infographics from website (in seven different languages), use for presentations, etc., see more [HERE](#)

- Q&A
 - Michelle – how will others who could benefit from this use it

8:15 p.m. – Fire and safety update

- Chief Charles Bailey, Fire Department
 - Master plan – shared info, etc, eight people showed up – Invite me back
 - We play a role in mental health, downtown calls,
 - Think about the world beyond the response times – really wants to come back and discuss further
- Capt Dan Reed, PD update
 - CM Stewart and Cecily – came on ridealong and saw firsthand, applaud their efforts that see change has to be made
 - DC and PG had one of the worst years since 1997 in terms of crime – hugely disparate to MC numbers
- Q&A
 - Question on MCPS/DCPS – Reed says we need to bring back the SRO program (guns)

8:31 p.m. – Councilmember Glass CoS Update

- Camera incentive program still has funds left so apply if you haven't – individuals and businesses – also asked to expand geographic area
- Glass appointed to EPA committee – one of 37 nationwide – TREE committees
- March 9, 10 a.m. – Combating overdose NIAS Dir Keynote

8:35 p.m. – Jacob SSCAB update

- Melanie Diaz family will be in town – Feb 18 at 5pm at Arrive – unveiling plaque
- Silver Spring Regional Aquatic Center ribbon cutting – Feb. 24 – SSCAB field trip – rec passes are free
- Black History Month
- Vocab updates for new folks – red shirts, Carson, etc.

HOLDING approving of the minutes, other board

Likely canceling March 25 mtg (MCPS Spring Break)

MCDEC Director of Corporate real estate is ec

8:42 – Motion to adjourn – Michelle Foster moved, Jacob Feit seconded