

SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report April 2017 *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

[1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

Fenton Village

The development of Studio Plaza on the Lot 3 Parking Lot has caused considerable disruption for area businesses. We continue working with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Permitting Services, the Department of Environmental Protection, our Urban District, local businesses, the Chamber, and area residents to address specific issues and mitigate the impacts as much as possible. New directional signs are now installed and the time limit on certain meters have being adjusted; an e-mail notification process is now in place; the alley remains open; and blasting is confined to a certain specific time period. We foresee continuing having to meet with the different interests and will do so throughout the construction process... A bill to remunerate business losses due to the construction of the public garage that is part of this development is being considered by County Council... (The Taste the World in Fenton Village will happen regardless. It is scheduled for Sunday, May 21st.)

Bus Stop on Wayne (by the Crescent Condominium)

The residents of the Crescent Condominium continue seeking alternatives to the bus stop in front of the entry to the building. We've met with the Owners Association and various departments and agencies - and have concluded that the options are limited. However, we continue in communications with them to explore any new possibilities.

Homelessness

With the closing of the overflow night shelter at Progress Place March 31st, the number of homeless on the streets at night has increased. We have expanded efforts to coordinate responses; and an additional Street Outreach staff is scheduled to begin soon. Certain spots remain that are of particular concern: Outside of Progress Place, on Georgia Avenue; the core of Silver Spring, by Veterans Plaza; Petal Plaza, at Georgia and Wayne Avenue; on the pedestrian bridge at Montgomery Hills; at the triangle at 16th Street and Georgia Avenue; and, at the cloverleaf entry of I-495.

Continuing Dialogue Regarding Impact of Federal Initiatives

Residents, organizations, the public sector, and institutions in the Silver Spring Regional Area continue meeting to discuss the impacts of some of the new Federal Administration's initiative, particularly concerning immigrants. These have included the College's Community Conversations; IMPACT Silver Spring's community circles; CASA's forum with elected officials; and, the Faith Advisory Group's convening of clergies. It is expected that these gatherings will continue for the foreseeable future to affirm our County's values as a welcoming community.

NOTE: Past reports highlighting additional issues are available at:
<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/silverspring/boardscommittees/cab/index.html>

[2] ADVISORY GROUPS

Citizens Advisory Board

The March meeting was cancelled due to the snow event. However, the SSCAB Committees met later in March in what was probably one of the most impactful simultaneous Committee meetings in a long time. The Neighborhoods Committee sponsored a forum with Councilmember Marc Elrich regarding the Renter's Bill; the T.R.E.E. Committee hosted DOT staff working on pedestrian safety and the bicycle plan for Silver Spring; and, the Commercial Economic Development Committee had a community conversation with David Petr, Director of the new Economic Development Corporation... This month the Board will meet on Tuesday, April 11th (because of the religious holiday on Monday.) They will be joined by Councilmember Nancy Floreen. Additionally, they will have a conversation with the Facility Manager of the Civic Building and Veterans Plaza; the Operations Manager of the Urban District; and the 3rd Police Precinct (regarding the new app, NextDoor.)

Urban District Advisory Committee

The March meeting included a presentation on the proposed Elizabeth Square redevelopment; and a discussion regarding the Optional Method Development process. This month (Thursday, April 20th) the SSUDAC will take a walking tour of the southern part of downtown, including the Lot 3 redevelopment site; and discuss possibilities for Holiday Decorations.

Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

The Committee will meet again Tuesday, May 16th. The Agenda is still being developed; but it will minimally include updates from all Committee members on their Spring/Summer schedule for their respective venues.

Transportation Management District

(The RSC Director is an ex-officio member of the SSTMD) At their March meeting the Committee heard from Doug Weinberger regarding the County's Green Certification Program and an do its annual update on the Transportation Management Program reporting; and Employer Outreach Program. The next meeting is (Thursday, April 13th); the agenda is being developed.

Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority

(The RSC Director represents Montgomery County on the TLCDA.) At their March March meeting, the TLCDA heard from Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart; and discussed their spring banner and marketing program. The TLCDA's Annual Meeting will be held in May.