

SSCAB Meeting Summary – September 11, 2017- v01

Attendance

■	Matthew Losak–Chair/ Nbrhd	X	Jonathan Bernstein - TREE	X	Donald Coffey
■	Edward Levy –Vice-Chair	■	Abdurahman Mohammed	X	Mulegeta Habteselassie
■	Mark Mendez -Secretary	■	Daniel Morales - SSUDAC		
X	Abe Saffer- Parliamentarian	X	Uri Pasternak		
■	Stacey Brown - CED	■	Mary Ann Zimmerman		
■	Jay Elvove	■	Mary Anderson		
■	Jessica Simon	■	Vineda Myers		

Present: ■ Absent: X Resigned: R

1. *Welcome and Introductions:* Chair Matt Losak opened the meeting with a moment of silence to remember those who were lost during the attacks of September 11, 2001. Afterwards, the chair led self-introductions of attendees.
2. *Previous Meeting Summary:* June 12 meeting minutes were approved.
3. *Public Safety Police Report:* Lt. Commander Jennifer McNeil and Sergeant Ian Clark reported on activities within 3rd District Police.
 - Increase in the homeless population due to services offered by Progress Place. The Public Library, as a public space, was a frequent overnight spot. Police confirmed that after the library closed, they were legally allowed to move people away from a public building under their watch. Policed promoted education in addition to enforcement. They brought in Bethesda Cares, a non-profit, to offer more individualized care to meet specific needs of homeless.
 - Robberies down in Downtown. 3rd District working with DC police to monitor activities around a potential crack house in DC.
4. *Public Safety Fire and Rescue Report:* Division Chief of Operations John Kinsley provided an update.
 - Recent FEMA grant will add new staff and allow every engine to have a paramedic travel with the four firefighters to incidents.
5. *Prezco Neighborhood Spotlight:* Michael Bufalini of the Seven Oaks Evanswood Citizens Association (SOECA) provided an overview of that neighborhood.
 - SOECA, established in 1968, has both suburban and urban characteristics. It is adjacent to downtown Silver Spring and extends beyond Sligo Creek with more than 2000 residents in 850 homes.
 - SOECA feels the county needs to recognize and respect the different characteristics of suburban neighborhoods when drafting sector plans. Mr Bufalini felt that the planning department’s trend was to urbanize Silver Spring’s neighborhoods.
6. *County Executive Isiah Leggett:* The County Executive began by thanking the board for their work, noting that he appreciates the informed and engaged residents of Montgomery County.
 - He noted that the growth in Silver Spring leads to inconveniences and disruptions at times but that the enthusiasm brings benefits and cannot always be scheduled.
 - While crime activity is down, there is an uptick in homelessness. He felt this was partly caused by the socially responsible services that the county offered. Organizations like Progress Place were attracting people from other areas. He acknowledged that this was a ‘sensitive subject’ as the county looked to balance services without placing a disproportionate burden on taxpayers.

- Reported on recent public information campaign to promote renters' rights but also noted that rents are going up. The county needs more affordable housing.
- Asked the board to watch an October request to provide input on proposals to repurpose the old library property on Colesville Road. He thought that proposals to collocate senior housing and intergenerational services held more merit than creating a relatively small park on the site
- He noted that the new Police Public Safety Training Program offered unprecedented training for a local police department. Body cameras now worn by county officers represented a large and important investment.
- Executive Leggett described himself as 'socially progressive but fiscally conservative', saying government needs to be able to fund services for those that need the most. He is concerned about the county's budget in coming years. He felt that 2018's incoming County Executive and council members will have their hands tied financially for the foreseeable future.

7. *Discussion of SSCAB Priorities:* Board members considered which broad topics to address this year. Ideas suggested included:

- Utilities and infrastructure work will lead to significant disruption. How do we communicate this to the public and mitigate the impact?
- Silver Spring's large immigrant population should be better understood. What resources are available to them and how do we communicate those services?
- With the 2018 elections coming, how do we motivate residents to become educated voters? Idea to offer a 'civic lesson 101' to understand how local government works including the roles, relationships and policies that matter for Silver Spring.
- Planning and Zoning – balancing growth with needs of current residents.
- Youth led meeting to understand youth interests and needs
- What's being planned for the streets and areas outside the Purple Line station? Lighting and safety and in these areas can be overlooked and underfunded but are critical to the success of the project.
- Highlight the area's individual and neighborhood business hubs.

Chair Matt Losak promised to draft a list of the potential topics and send to members to review. He recognized that several members had already volunteered for specific committees. He will contact all members to identify which committee they will serve on this year.

8. *Upcoming Meetings:* Committee members will meet on September 25 to plan s for upcoming committee meetings. Planning ahead will allow for more in depth research prior to discussions. Committees will meet on 9/25 separately for 45 minutes and then come together to report out and look for common threads. Next full board meeting will be October 9. The October Committee meetings will be held October 23 at the Civic Center.

9. *Adjourn:* 9 PM