

# SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA

Monthly Report    APRIL 2018    *Reemberto Rodriguez, Director*

## [1] COMMUNITY ISSUES

*Please see the next section - Advisory Groups – for additional community issues. Also: See previous Monthly Reports for information on specific Purple Line station areas, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), homelessness, and development activity.*

### Tele Communications Antenna

There is a proposed new tele communications antenna to replace the existing pole antenna in Four Corners, behind the Fire Station / Blair baseball field. This is part of a broader effort to improve the emergency communications system. The community is requesting a community meeting to better understand the process and the technical details that led to the proposal, and discuss the possibilities for alternatives. We are working with the County's Department of Technology Services and the community to make the meeting happen.

### Oakview NAT

We have begun the process with the Oakview neighborhood (the community bounded by the Beltway to the north, New Hampshire to the east, and St. Camillus to the south) to establish a Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) to address various issues, including: pedestrian safety, speeding, trash in area creek, parking of commercial vehicles on street, parking on lawns, and perception of drug activity. We are in the process of gathering more information on each issue, contacting pertinent agencies, and scheduling a community leadership meeting for updates and follow up action.

## [2] ADVISORY GROUPS

### Citizens Advisory Board

The March meeting was devoted to a conversation with elementary and middle school principals and parent leaders. The focus was on how nearby residents that do not have children in the schools can connect to school activities and volunteer opportunities.

Additionally, the three SSCAB Committees held a joint meeting with the Department of Permitting Services to follow up on the letter of advice the Board recently sent to the County Executive regarding the construction disruptions in the area, and hear about a new tool the Department is developing to facilitate the permitting process.

On Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the SSCAB will focus their meeting on a conversation with some members of other Citizens Advisory Boards. This will come a few days after their annual meeting with the County Executive.

At the April SSCAB Committee meetings, the Neighborhood Committee will host Dr. Renee Johnson, Principal of Blair High School to continue the conversation regarding how neighbors can engage in local schools. (Other Committee agendas are TBD.)

## **Urban District Advisory Committee**

In March the Committee's agenda included two major items: (1) a presentation by the Purple Line Transit Partnership and the Maryland Transit Authority regarding how the intersection of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street will function once the Purple Line is operational; and, (2) a presentation by the proponents of a business improvement district for the area currently covered by the Silver Spring Urban District. The BID proposal was met with some apprehension and inquires for more information.

In April (Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup>), the Committee will hear from Montgomery County's Director of Transportation, Al Roshdieh regarding the many issues in downtown Silver Spring where DOT is active. Some of these include: Dockless bikes; Challenges to vehicular traffic due to new bike lanes (particularly on Spring St); Interface of County DOT with the State's Purple Line project; Interface with PEPCO construction phase on Fenton; DOT's attention to pedestrian priority on Fenton after PEPCO: Possibility of barn dance on Ellsworth/Fenton, wider crosswalks on Fenton/Wayne, and hi-visibility marking in all crosswalks; Parking challenges in Fenton Village; Update on disposition of Garage 5 and 55, and status of Garage 4; Status of Bike Master Plan for Fenton Street, particularly regarding impact on on-street parking (and the Grove St option); Bike path on Wayne from Colesville to Fenton; Interface of BRT with existing bus system, the Metro, and new ideas for the BRT station near the AFI (across from The Fillmore); Interface of DOT with development construction activity; Update on Metropolitan Branch Trail (timing, construction, and elimination of parking on Selim Rd); and, Getting a distinct VanGo.

## **Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee**

The Committee met on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. They heard from MCDOT regarding the art component of the Bus Rapid Transit system that will be built on US29 and intersect with the Silver Spring Transit Station. The next meeting is TBD.

## **Transportation Management District**

In March the Committee reviewed their final draft letter of advice regarding the FY19 Budget, heard an update on the Transit Management Plans (TMPs) submitted by the major employers in the TMD, and had a presentation on Vision Zero. The SSTMD will begin meeting every other month. Their next meeting is in May; the agenda is TBD.

## **Other Institutional Engagement**

The RSC Director represents the County in a series of other initiatives, institutions, and government sector, some of the most active include:

- Takoma Langley Commercial Development Authority – The organization has hired their new Executive Director Kayleigh Gunnoud, and have scheduled their next Board meeting for April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Long Branch Partners – Recently participated - with many others, including the Police detective unit - in continuing strategy sessions to address the issue of gangs in the area.
- Long Branch Business League – They are gearing up for their second Salsa Networking evening at El Gavilan.
- Silver Spring Town Center, Inc. – The skating rink closed April 2<sup>nd</sup>. SSTCi will be offering ambiance performances in that space as of later this month every Tuesday and Wednesday evening.
- City of Takoma Park – They are also gearing up for the many upcoming community celebrations.

**COMING UP SUNDAY, MAY 20<sup>th</sup>: Taste the World in Fenton Village. More info in eNewsletters.**