

## SSCAB Meeting Summary – October 8, 2018- v01

### Attendance

■	Matthew Losak–Chair	■	Jay Elvove	X	Barbara Darko
■	Edward Levy –Vice-Chair	■	Abdurahman Mohammed-Nbrhd	■	Delia Aguilar
X	Mark Mendez -Secretary	■	Uri Pasternak	■	Patricia Germann
■	Jonathan Bernstein - TREE	■	Mulegeta Habteselassie-CED	■	Lysette House
■	Stacey Brown	X	Donald Coffey	■	Mandisa Berry
X	Daniel Morales - SSUDAC	X	Mary Anderson	X	Vineda Myers

Present: ■ Absent: X Resigned: R

1. *7:00 Welcome and Introductions:* Chair **Matt Losak** led self-introductions of attendees.
2. *7:05 September minutes* submitted by **Mark Mendez** were approved.
3. *7:05 Public Safety/Police Report:* with Commander Montgomery
  - There have been problems with several downtown businesses with violent acts
    - i. Police are working with partners to follow up
4. *Neighborhood Spotlight:* Matthew Losak on renters
  - 40% of the community are renters with 12-14k living in Downtown Silver Spring
  - Old Silver Spring Library location will have childcare, but most green space is being allocated for apartments
  - What does affordable housing mean? Not temporary
  - 1.5% vacancy rate, which is very low
  - There is currently no just cause eviction protection, but Delegate Janelle Wilkins will be submitting a bill to the Maryland House for consideration this upcoming session.
5. *Homelessness in Silver Spring: Guests from HHS, Progress Place, Shepard’s Table, Silver Spring Civic Center, Bethesda Cares, Interfaith Works*
  - Several issues to think about
    - i. Panhandling: not only conducted by the homeless
    - ii. Families are getting younger and seniors getting older
    - iii. Organizations are working on getting quarterly counts of homeless population. Currently, it appears that the rate is dropping, and the County initiative to get all the homeless veterans housing has been successful.
      1. Board will be provided with full Bethesda Cares report who conducted first comprehensive survey on homelessness
    - iv. 70% of outreach services in county are in Silver Spring
  - Shepard’s Table has increased their meal service from 9 to 19 meals a day) and also has
    - i. Eyalab
    - ii. Clothing Closet
    - iii. Resource center to fill prescriptions
  - Interfaith Works/Progress Place

- i. Empowerment Center (shower, laundry, case management)
  - ii. Overflow shelter (November – March) has capacity of 75 and is typically at capacity
- Police and Civic Center Management, try to form relationships with the homeless population which can help get them the help they need.
- There is no sleeping in the Plaza during business hours
- Urban District cleans up waste and Police handle packages
- Mental health issues are a real issue, though this slightly improved with the ACA
- Bethesda Cares has a program to work with landlords for housing. People get into housing and landlords fill open spaces
- There is a “don’t ask, don’t tell policy” in effect regarding immigration
- What can we do?
  - i. MoCo has a lot of resources, and they partner well, so there is limited duplication
  - ii. Major drawback is when people don’t want to be helped.
    - 1. Acute psychotic symptoms to not necessarily allow a petitionable action
    - 2. Homelessness is not a crime
  - iii. Is this only a public perception issue?
  - iv. 24 hour crisis hotline: 240-777-4000

6. *Committee Meetings Report:*

- Neighborhoods: Hate Crimes is on the agenda for October, Just Cause Eviction was discussed in September
- CED: DLC and time restrictions for alcohol sales
- TREE: Pedestrian safety is on the agenda for October, Solar Power was discussed in September

7. *SSCAB Elections:* Slate is approved – Jay Elvove moves, Mulegeta Habteselassie seconds

- Chair: Matthew Losak
- Vice Chair: Ed Levy
- Secretary: Mark Mendez
- Parliamentarian: Lysette House

8. *Chair Report:* Several candidates were interviewed for the open seats and we anticipate any of them being a good fit for the board.

9. *Adjourn:*

*Upcoming meetings:* Committee Meetings to be held October 28. The next full board meeting will be Monday, November 19, 2018.