

SSCAB Meeting Summary – February 9, 2015

1. *Welcome/Introductions:* Chair Bernice North called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Board and community introductions, including announcements of (newly launched) Silver Spring Timebank, Safe Silver Spring meeting, and introduction of new outreach librarian at Silver Spring library branch.
2. *Acceptance of last meeting summary:* January 12, 2015 meeting minutes accepted
3. *Public Safety Report:*
 - New community liaison - Lt. Jennifer McNeal – presented the area report
 - Annual Crime Report was released last week; County-wide decrease in Part I (more serious) offenses; lesser offenses up due to reclassification of one form.
 - Provided background on morning's incident at landscaping company; occurred in district 2D.
4. *Dialogue re: Parenting in Silver Spring (Guest Uma Ahluwalia, Director HHS Department):*
 - Couldn't discuss the Meitiv case; gave a general overview of the applicable laws
 - Acknowledged gap in laws for outdoor questions; school bus sites, etc.
 - CPS goal is to keep families together; about 250 cases/month, maybe 7 or 8 removals
 - Follow-up dialogue with the Board on topics including foster care system, oversight in removal process, and the role of 'child advocates' in these cases. Also discussed vaccination requirements; religious and medical exemptions are available, but around 99% are vaccinated.
5. *Dialogue with Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Riemer (Joined by Robert Kronenberg):*
 - In addition to placemaking, focusing on child care, uber/taxi bills, and liquor control.
 - Provided overview of the three Silver Spring placemaking meetings, which identified action items and anticipated 'champions' for desired outcomes. Looking for groups like SSCAB to be players in the ongoing discussions. For more information see:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/silverspring/placemaking.shtm>
 - Follow-up dialogue on specific opportunities for the Board and Community Members to get involved; funding mechanisms; and the need to reach out to additional parties.
6. *Board Discussion on Advice Letter Regarding County Executive's FY16 Operating Budget:*
 - Board Chair's draft letter previously circulated by email; comments received and incorporated into follow-up draft(s). Much feedback occurred over email, prior to Board meeting.
 - Additional discussions regarding whether the budget priorities were/should be in order of preference; the need to improve small business environment; and appreciation of police efforts to engage the community.
 - Board members suggested that the length of paragraphs imply importance; the letter should be modified to provide equal 'time' to each priority issue. Remove contractions from letter.
 - Board member Uri Pasternak motioned to summarize the letter discussion into three items: 1. That the existing budgetary focus areas remain 2. That a sentence be added to clarify that the priorities identified are not in a particular order and 3. That the content be adjusted to provide more consistent lengths across the referenced topics (generally through adding content to the letter as-needed). **Board Member Sigi Neubauer Abstained, Remainder of Board in Attendance Voted 'Yes'. Motion Passed.**
7. *Councilmember(s) Updates:* (None Present)
8. *Committee Reports:* January 26 meetings were postponed due to weather; now February 23
9. *Board Chair's Report:* Recently attended discussion with County Executive, opportunity to present Board priorities. Use of old library site (Parks request to use for extension of Ellsworth Park) is on the radar. March meeting will feature Tom Street (Transit discussion) and Diane Schwartz Jones (DPS).
10. *Director's Report:* Provided Board members with a printed list of issues/topics to keep on the radar; continue to see E-Blasts to stay updated.
11. *New Business:* None
12. *Adjourn:* 9:03pm