

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
December 16th, 2021

Members Present: Jay Elvove, Juanita Stewart, Jane Redicker, Diana Brown, David Fogel

Members Absent: Mussie Betre, Thomas Kaufmann, Carmen Camacho, Michael Larson, Mel Tull

Call to Order and Introductions:

Juanita Stewart

- The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

MCPD Public Safety Update:

Commander David McBain, MCPD

- Crime Suppression Taskforce, 22.6% reduction in calls
- 4 officers tasked at night in hot spots, 9pm-2am, Garage Checks
- Seized 8 guns in the last 2 months
- Arrests of Auto/Motorcycle theft, armed robberies, open warrants.
- David Fogel wants a follow-up on traffic stop -> escape from DC into Silver Spring and apprehension of suspect with a gun (Illegal magazine) and drugs (PCP, intent to sell). Questions \$750 bail.
 - McBain criticizes the Montgomery County judges for lack of deterrence towards violent crime
 - Meeting on Monday with CE, judges, council to discuss these issues. Doesn't think \$750 bail is sufficient deterrence.
 - Suggests advocating to the judges
 - Jane Redicker says the Chamber has been involved in advocating for increased deterrence. Covid related deferment from jail.
- Nick from T&K Management asks about 2 am shooting in Silver Spring. Suspects not apprehended yet but there is good video.
- Nick also asks about windows shot out. Jacob Newman, RSC Director takes the lead on response, offers his cell number and to get in touch with Daniel Koroma.
- Carson Henry, RSC Program Manager, talks about Clean/Safe team outreach efforts and suggests checking additional cameras for pre-cursor activity.
 - Nick from T&K states they have provided additional video and a tow truck is effective in dispersing the crowd that may gather in the alley ways.
- McBain is going to meet with Permitting & Earl Stoddard to try to come to

an understanding on ways to regulate the problem areas/establishments.

- Jay Elvove brings up pedestrian/bike safety including speeding cars, cars running red lights, modified exhausts, cars going the wrong way down alleys, etc
 - McBain agrees and met with D20 legislators on new legislation involving escalating fines for repeated violations. Jay suggests impounding cars and McBain agrees on the efficacy. Potentially \$300 to get a vehicle out of an impound lot and inconvenient.
 - Re: Traffic, MCPD is working with DC & PG on stopping “car rallies” aka the cars doing donuts on highways and in intersections. Standing up enough officers to be a deterrent and be able to respond to the events in a way they haven’t had the manpower to do previously.

Fenton Street Cycletrack and Bike Storage

Matt Johnson, Capital Project Manager MCDOT

- Cycletrack from Spring down to King St and the Metropolitan Branch Trail, also contacts to the Capital Crescent Trail which will go from Bethesda through Silver Spring to Georgetown.
- Fenton Village portion is Phase 1 (2023)
- See Presentation for maps, graphics, and extended timeline
- Stormwater management allowing runoff to filter into the ground before it gets into Sligo Creek. Reduces water storm drains take in which helps cut down on flooding.
- Loading Zones on each block
- Improved pedestrian access
- Tactile graphics of the plans for accessibility
- Improved accessibility on the floating bus stops for people with limited to no vision.
- Offers cell phone access to business owners re: issues with the construction
- Jane Redicker asks about current usage of trails. Matt responds that numbers increase when safer options are available. “We don’t decide to build a bridge by counting the number of people swimming across the river”. Jane requests specific numbers and Matt says they will provide but the network isn’t complete so hard to gauge full use.
- Jane asks about costs, Matt says it’s a little fluid but currently \$6-8 million
- Jane asks if business owners have been asked about distance to shops from loading zones, some businesses do not let their delivery people travel more than X distance. Matt says they have been discussing it with business owners. Jane brings up Bonifant loading zones not being sufficient. Matt says they will be responsive to issues both during construction and after.
- Jane asks if the sidewalks comply with the streetscape plan, Matt says

- they do and all brick sidewalks are difficult to keep ADA compliant.
- Jay brings up traffic along Fenton Street, questioning single lanes resulting in backups due to waiting on others to turn.
 - Carson brings up safety concerns re:brick sidewalks and wants to know about a concrete path with a brick accent and if is compliance. Matt says that's essentially what the cycletrack proposes
 - Jay brings up necessity of bike parking/storage along the trail. Matt agrees and it will be part of the project.
 - E-Scooters are expected to be part of the bike lanes

Silver Spring Urban District Update Carson, Henry

- Focus on trip hazards, leaf collection, and graffiti removal including in Veterans Plaza.
- Storm drain repair in partnership with MCDOT.
- Thanksgiving Parade was a big success.
- Tree removal of dead or dying trees that would soon cause a pedestrian or road hazard. 7 Trees removed mostly on Fenton. Some on Georgia. Also stump grinding of those trees and other stumps.
- Removal of temporary ramps from construction/pandemic.
- Interviews for staffing went well and new staff will be coming on board soon.

SSUDAC Old Business, New Business, Community Concerns

Juanita Stewart

- Discussion on the BID, desire to invite D20 legislators to discuss the legislation. Letter moved to February.
- Discussion on future agendas and topics, additions including Montgomery College, Jessup Blair House, and Redistricting Impact.
- DSW moving locations in Silver Spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.