

## SSUDAC Meeting Summary January 20th, 2021

**Members Present:** Jay Elvove, Juanita Stewart, Diana Brown, Mel Tull, Maggie Gessner

**Members Absent:** Mussie Betre, Thomas Kaufmann, Carmen Camacho, Michael Larson, David Fogel, Jane Redicker

**Presenters:** Eric Rasch, CUPF, Melanie Sasse, MC REC

**Call to Order and Introductions:**  
Juanita Stewart

- The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

**MCPD Public Safety Update:**  
Commander David McBain, MCPD

- Drops in theft from autos and robberies
- Shoots have been an issue
- Crime Suppression Task Force has seized 5 handguns this past month and 15- since October.
- 3-10s doing work with loss prevention in and around Veteran's Plaza, Ellsworth, etc.
- Ongoing continuous business checks
- 8 portable camera systems will be going into downtown in higher crime areas. Capture on street and in alleys.
- Robust license plate reader program, focusing on stolen vehicles and individuals with felonies.
- Travel Lodge shooting was between individuals who knew each other.
- Cameras in the coming week, will be rented to start
- Question from Jay re: people obscuring their license plates. Citations for doing so.
- Central Motors making traffic stops from DC line North on Georgie and 29.
  - 421 warnings, citations, EROs(Emergency Repair Order), HVE(High Visibility Enforcement) violations.
- Pedestrian safety initiative.
- Crime Suppression Task Force seeing guns during traffic stops in higher crime areas, search of the vehicle turns up guns.
- 5 guns, 1 Silver Spring resident, 4 others from surrounding areas.
- Lt Reed working with lounges, spent a night shift with Jason from Society. Lounges hiring additional security, often off duty MCPD.
- Gun stops often are people who have previously been caught with guns. Bail amounts brought up as possible problem and resolution.
- Letter to council/CE raised
- 12-10 time for task force
- Less than 5% arrested are Montgomery County residents
- Lt Reed also raises bail as an issue

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### **Veterans Plaza Events & Festivals**

Eric Rasch, Operations Manager Silver Spring Civic Building, CUPF

- Veterans Plaza festival and event schedule, every Sunday from May till September.
- Covid Testing:
  - 4x increase in testing, typically Monday-Thrusday, now often Monday-Friday.
  - Test results taking >2 days.
- Open Air Drug Market press conference causing issues with perception of the plaza.
- Veterans Plaza 2.0: Looking for ways to innovate in the design of the plaza.
- 20 nonprofits awarded to non-profits in 50% cost-sharing program with the county. IE: \$1000 non profit, \$1000 county funds for events
- Silver Spring Farmers Market is awesome, equitable, and helps with food access. Produce at the end of the event is donated to A Wider Circle.
- Saturday Dates in the main hail are booked every Saturday but 2 until the end of the year, those days being Thanksgiving weekend and Christmas weekend.
- Working to bring Cherry Blossom Festival to Silver Spring and Montgomery County.
  - Artistic Chairs for Silver Spring
  - Cherry Blossom decals around the plaza and possibly for small businesses
  - Cherry Blossom themed events

### **Aquatics Center Silver Spring**

Melanie Sasse, Montgomery County Recreation

- Late Spring, Early Summer of 2023
- Four levels of recreation.
- First level: Pools, rec pool, competition pool, spa, no dive tower, 1 and 3 meter boards.
- Entry level: Social Center, Holy Cross Annex,
- Second Floor: Full gym and Fitness Center, Classrooms & Dance studios.

- Top Floor: Community Lounge, senior programs, community programs, classrooms & meeting rooms.
- Over the next year working on programming needs.
- “Bank of Programs” at Rec but also looking to serve the specific community.
- Designed as a Regional Center, large footprint, drawing from surrounding areas like DC.
- Day-to-Day serving Silver Spring community.
- Plan to be open early in the AM for lap swimmers, opening at 6am.
- Heated pool.
- Competition pool ~80-50 degrees
- Rec pool ~85-90 degrees
- HOC for presentation for housing above the center
- Not yet incurring major delays (Knock on wood)
- Meeting rooms for public via reservation/rental
- Carson suggests outdoor programming
  - Possible in the plaza behind the center/in the middle of the Elizabeth House buildings.

### Standing Guest Updates

- **Roxana Henderson, MCDOT**
  - Spoke on garage safety/crime. She is the one who reviews camera footage and reports to the police.
  - Security Team active 24/7.
  - Most incidents in Garages 60 and 61 (Ellsworth and Silver Spring Library)
    - Has security assigned specifically to these two garages
  - Some incidents in Garages 16 and 9 (13<sup>th</sup> street and Kennett Street)
  - Mel raises the question of improving camera systems. Yes it is a need and they could use more resources from the County. License Plate reading cameras at the entrances and exits would be beneficial.
  - Carson brings up Garage 4 (Fenton) and incidents involving cars. Asks if data is shared with urban districts.
    - Garage 3 is also an issue possibly due to the lounges near by.
    - Provided camera footage after shooting near Garage 3.
  - Garages are sinking, especially an issue with brick sidewalks in entrances/exits due to heavy tonnage traffic.
- **Elza McCoy, Planning**
  - Planning Board approved the Silver Spring and Adjacent Communities Plan.
  - Public Hearing scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Planning Board approved modifications to United Therapeutics to include a day care. In the sunken plaza retail space.
  - Mel brings up 5G, asks about install on street light poles. Elza has not heard anything on it recently.
  - Shawn raises question about brick sidewalks, whether they’d

continue forward in the Silver Spring and Adjacent Communities plan.

- It's a balancing act between aesthetics and function.
- Some issues have been addressed like slippery bricks in Fenton that were re-designed with new bricks.
- Carson brings up this being an issue in almost all of our meetings.
- Mel brings up an effort to re-write the streetscape standards, it's been the standard for a couple decades now. A lot of inertia in the brick sidewalks from the county, will not be something that will just change.
- Carson brings up the idea of a specific meeting about the streetscape standards.
- Tina Schneider won a research grant on cool(temperature) paving materials after work on measuring surface temps in Silver Spring
- Carson and Juanita bring up documenting trip hazards

SSCAB Update

Jay Elvove

Thrive 2050

Thrive 2050 meeting tonight in Mid County

### Silver Spring Urban District Update

Carson, Henry

- **See SSUD Manager's Report**
  - Implores board and guests to report lighting that is out in the district either through MCDOT's map or to the SSUD Hotline
  - SSUD hired new OSC, Shawn Morris
  - Trees will be coming back
  - Work with multi-agency task force on public safety
  - A majority of open positions at the SSUD have offers extended
  - 311 does not communicate with SSUD
  - Currently 5 vacancies, 2 PSAs, 1 Supervisor, 1 Equipment Operator, 1 Program Specialist (Manager's #2)

### SSUDAC Old Business, New Business, Community Concerns

Juanita Stewart

- N/A

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.