

SSCAB ANNUAL REPORT September 8, 2014

CONTENTS

- [1] DEVELOPERS PROPOSALS
- [2] COUNTY OFFICIALS
- [3] PLANS AND INITIATIVES
- [4] AGENCIES & NON-PROFITS
- [5] CONCLUSION

[1] DEVELOPERS PROPOSALS

During FY2014 fiscal year, the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board discussed the upcoming developments of Silver Spring with area businesses and developers:

- **United Therapeutics** gave a presentation during the July 2013 meeting on their Net-Zero development project on the Spring Street garage property. In January, we met with United Therapeutics again and we got an update on their progress.
- In June 2014, the Board received two presentations on the development of **the Blairs** and **Elizabeth Square** senior housing projects. The Blairs project will be a redevelopment of the Giant Food shopping center area and nearby Blair property. The Elizabeth Square project represents the combined properties of Housing Opportunities Commission and Lee Development Group to provide many affordable housing units for seniors.

[2] COUNTY OFFICIALS

The Board also received updates from the County Executive and several members of the County Council:

- During July 2013, when the **County Executive Ike Leggett** came to speak to the Board and the community, the Silver Spring Transit Center was addressed, as well as affordable housing, and transportation projects such as the Purple Line and the Bus Rapid Transit.
- In December 2013, we had a dialogue with **Councilmember Nancy Floreen**, focusing on the zoning rewrite and related issues being addressed by the County Council in 2014.
- In February 2014, we had a dialogue with **Councilmember Hans Reimer** discussing current County Council issues such as school construction, potential use of the green space at the Transit Center, and answered general questions from the public. We also

learned about the major development projects in the vicinity of the regional center area, such as the Walter Reed development, as well as development projects in Wheaton and White Oak area, along with BRT.

- In May 2014, **Councilmember George Leventhal** discussed a wide range of topics with the community on the issues the Board has heard throughout the year, including transportation projects like the DC Streetcar and the Purple Line, Transit Center, the old and new library. And the use of the Northwood/Four Corners Park. We also discussed the timely issue of whether Pyramid Atlantic will be residing in the new library. We also heard from Bruce Adams, Director of the **County's Office of Community Partnerships** to describe what is office in reaching out to our diverse communities.
- In June 2014, we heard from appointed District 5 **Councilmember Cherri Branson**, who filled the seat vacated by Valerie Ervin in January 2014. She answered questions from the community on issues such as the achievement gap.

[3] PLANS AND INITIATIVES

In addition to hearing from the County Executive, County Council, and developers in Silver Spring, we addressed upcoming plans and ideas for areas impacting the Silver Spring Regional Services area:

- In July 2013, we also learned about the **Long Branch Sector Plan** and plans for the **Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**.
- At our the October 2013 meeting, we had a dialogue with Henriot St. Gerard, Vice-Chair of the **Nighttime Economy Task Force** about recommendations of his Task Force that addresses ways to attract more nightlife in Montgomery County, with a focus on downtown Silver Spring. The Board also learned about the **proposal for a consortium to use the Black Box Theater**, which the Board weighed in on supporting the new process of creating a consortium of users of the Black Box Theater. In November 2013, we also began discussions on how the **green space at the Transit Center** can be used for the community's benefit and continued the conversation with Councilmember At-Large Hans Reimer in February 2014.
- During the December 2013 meeting, Greg Ossant, **the Department of General Services** Deputy Director, provided updates on several developing projects including the new Silver Spring Library, the new 3rd District Police Station, Progress Place, and the Black Box Theater.
- The Board also began to hear requests as early as December 2013 from the community, especially the Woodmoor/Four Corners community, to discuss **White Oak Master Plan and the Bus Rapid Transit system**.

- In the Spring of 2014, we focus on **transportation projects in the area**. In March, we addressed transportation projects impacting the Silver Spring Region, such as the **D.C. Streetcar, Langley Park Transit Center and the Purple Line**. In April, we discussed the **BRT (Bus Rapid Transit)**, which was also introduced to the Board as the **RTS (Rapid Transit System)**. We explored its impact on the Silver Spring community, especially Woodmoor/Four Corners. We also discussed and approved support for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (**TIGER**) **grant** supporting the building of the Purple Line. At a future time, the Board desired more specifics on the proposal for the grant money sought.

[4] AGENCIES & NON-PROFITS

We also engaged in dialogue with **other County school. Government and non-profit leaders** as it relates to Silver Spring:

- During the September 2013 meeting, we took a reprieve from talking about development projects to have a discussion with **Superintendent Joshua Starr**. Our discussion centered on the opportunities and challenges for MCPS, including the achievement gap, over-capacity schools, democratized information, school construction, transportation limitations, and exclusionary rules for immersions programs within the BCC cluster.
- In November 2013, **Eric Freedman, Director of the County Office of Consumer Protection** introduced the Board to what the long-standing agency has done in Montgomery County.
- In January 2014, we also heard from Bruce Meier from **Office of Management and Budget** in preparation for the FY15 budget. Mr. Meier went over the budget process in preparation of the upcoming budget forums led by the County Executive.
- In March 2014-We also heard from then-Executive Director John Brill of non-profit **Silver Spring Green** and learned more about the organization's impact in Silver Spring.
- In April 2014, we also heard from **Lisa Martin from the non-profit Silver Spring Town Center Inc.** about its work in the Silver Spring community.

Outside of our main board meetings, our **Board members had been participating in our own subcommittees and represented the Board on other Silver Spring “Advisory Groups”**, such as the **Arts and Entertainment, Urban District, and Transportation Management District Advisory Committees**. In addition:

- The **Commercial Economic Development (CED)** subcommittee of the Board had presentations on the B&O railroad station and from YELP for small businesses, along with planning the Taste the World at Fenton Village.

- The **Transportation, Energy and Environmental Committee (TREE)** focused on traffic light signalization and other concerns effecting pedestrians.
- The **Neighborhoods** committee, in a transition of leadership, worked on building relationships with the civic associations and solicited public discussions on the Purple Line.

[5] CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we had a very productive year and look forward to continuing our work in FY15 and beyond.