

# SSCAB REPORT 2014-2015

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### [1] Elected Officials

- The Board received updates from the County Executive Ike Leggett in September 2014 meeting. Former SSCAB chair Evan Glass received an award for recognition. County Executive also discusses key issues such as transportation (Purple Line, BRT; Transit Center) and schools (enrollment growth; achievement gap). He gave updates on the new library, Progress Place, and use of former library and police station sites. Additionally we discussed White Oak Master Plan, Job growth in Montgomery County, Four Corners/BRT Impacts and Blair Auditorium.
- In December 2014, the board invited the State representatives from district 18, 19 and 20 to discuss their legislative priorities, heading in to the upcoming session. It was well attended by the representatives and Silver Spring regional area residents.
- In February 2015, Councilmember Hans Reimer with Robert Kronenberg of Park and Planning met with the board. They provided overview of the three Silver Spring placemaking meetings, which identified action items and anticipated ‘champions’ for desired outcomes. In addition to placemaking, they also discussed Councilmember’s focus on child care, Uber/taxi bills, and liquor control.
- In April 2015, Councilmember Nancy Floreen met with the board to discuss the operating budget, council’s discussions on Uber and Lyft, rent subsidies and job creation in the County especially in White Oak.

### [2] Plans and Initiatives

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

- In September 2014, we learned about the White Oak Development Plan that was approved by the Council in July 2014. Gwen Wright from Park and Planning presented the plan and discussed how the plan will bring jobs to the east county corridor.
- In November 2014, Scott Gutschick from Montgomery County Fire/Rescue, Planning Section Manager presented a strategic plan for fire/rescue operation in

Montgomery County.

- In November 2014, Jerry Pasternek from PEPCO informed the board about Exelon-PHI Merger and how it will affect the residents.
- In June 2015, Kelly Kaplan from Washington Gas met with the board to discuss the undergoing accelerated pipeline replacement program

### [3] Agencies and Non-Profits

- We engaged in dialogue with other County Government staff and non-profit leaders as it relates to Silver Spring:
- During the October 2014 meeting, we conducted a dialogue with Commander Marcus Jones of 3rd Precinct Police District. He informed us about the new station in White Oak. He gave us updates regarding how the department handles coverage on big events at Fillmore and Downtown Silver Spring, body cameras for the officers and increasing interaction with the community.
- At the October 2014 meeting, Uma Ahluwalia, Director of Montgomery County HHS Dept came to the board meeting to discuss the range of services the department provides, including: Senior services, Linkages to Learning, Public Health Disease Surveillance, restaurant licensing, etc. She gave us an update on the eight school-based health centers for students and informed us that her goal is to increase number of centers to 15.
- During November 2014 meeting, Parker Hamilton, Director Montgomery County Libraries gave us an update on the new Silver Spring Library and informed us about the different services the facility will provide. Some of the innovative services include- rich interactive area for pre-reading age children; 3d printer on 3rd floor.
- At the January 2015 meeting, we kicked off the year with a presentation by Bruce Meier with Office of Management and Budget to get an overview of Government Structure and Budget Process. We learnt that the FY16 is projected to have approximately \$238Million shortfall and that the Budget Forums are critical opportunity for community's voices to be heard. Presentations continued with review of Open Budget/Online Accessible Data by Scott Coble (OMB) and Victoria Lewis (site's project manager). They provided an overview of the tools.
- In February 2015 meeting we had a conversation with Uma Ahluwalia, Director of Montgomery County HHS Dept to discuss 'Parenting in Silver Spring' as pertained to the issue of Free Range Parenting. Ms Ahluwalia gave an overview of the applicable laws She Acknowledged gap in laws for outdoor activities, school bus sites, etc. She stated that CPS goal is to keep families together; about 250 cases/month, maybe 7 or 8 removals. The board discussed further 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.
- In March 2015 we held discussions with Tom Street in regards to transportation projects in Silver Spring Regional Area. He gave us an update on Purple line, provided us update

on the ITA proposal and other transportation projects in the County such as CCT and BRT. We also met with Diane Jones from DPS to discuss the departments' efforts to be user friendly.

- In April 2015, Greg Ossont from DGS met with the board to provide updates on Progress Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Police Station, Old Silver Spring Library, the new Silver Spring Library, Woodside Park Social Services Building, Former Blair Auditorium, Transit Center and Black Box Theater.
- In June 2015, Robin Riley from Department of Recreation informed the board regarding the new software system called ActiveNet that the department will be using for their operations.

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 Urban District Committee. In addition:

- The Commercial Economic Development (CED) subcommittee-
  1. The committee had presentations on redevelopment of Metro Plaza, met with Councilmember Nancy Floreen on to discuss small business and community interaction, met at Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority offices to discuss the effects on small businesses.
  2. The committee met with most of the stakeholders to discuss liquor control
  3. Held a forum with the State Comptroller Peter Franchot to discuss the business environment in the County and Silver Spring regional area.
- The Transportation, Energy and Environmental Committee (TREE)
  1. The committee focused on placemaking initiative with Council member Reimer traffic I and other concerns effecting pedestrians.
  2. Provided a draft letter supporting restoration of funding for Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Areas (BPPA)
- The Neighborhoods committee focused on educating participants on their rights when interacting with police. The committee will continue holding similar meetings as part of their 'know your rights' series.

#### [4] Conclusion

In conclusion, we have had a very productive year and look forward to continuing our work in FY15-16.