

SSCAB Meeting Summary
October 8, 2012

1. *Welcome & Introductions*: Chair Evan Glass called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Introduction of SSCAB members and community attendees.
2. *Acceptance of summary of prior meeting*: September 10, 2012 meeting minutes accepted.
3. *Selection of Board Secretary*: Uri Pasternak selected as Board Secretary, unanimous vote.
4. *Conversation with Ramona Bell Pearson (Assistant CAO for the County) re: \$200,000 Pilot Program to Increase Access to the Civic Building Facility*:
 - Previous discussions have sought to identify whether allocated funds should provide more hours for building use or reduce costs. Pilot program to focus on reducing rental rates.
 - Use of facility through program is County-wide, not just Silver Spring groups.
 - Application for Pilot Program will be 'live' online October 9, 2012.
 - A Review Board will meet (once per month, or as driven by demand) to rate applications and allocate timing/funds.
 - An entity collaborating with a County Agency would receive free use of the space, and can apply for pilot funding to cover costs of security, cleanup, staffing, etc.
 - Board received a general summary on current peak use times and costs; **requested specific data on current usage and monthly summary of pilot program process (item requires follow-up at November Board meeting)**.
 - Community feedback: building should be welcoming and serve residents.
 - Consensus of Board and community: program should be transparent, so we can confirm the money is spent wisely and advocate for program expansion. We want the pilot to succeed.
5. *(Insert Item): Letter Regarding Studio Plaza Development*:
 - Proposed Board letter with comments on project, requires 2/3 Board approval.
 - Plan is going to Planning Board in December.
 - Development is by-right, therefore focus instead on elements of the plan -> break down the building massing.
 - Board unanimously approved the letter with modification: add developer name and CC their representative.
6. *Committee Updates & Action Items*:
 - TREE Committee: Recap of previous meeting with Marc Elrich on BRT, focused on funding. October meeting may be combined with neighborhoods, more details to follow.
 - Neighborhoods Committee: September meeting with CED included a presentation by the 8001 Newell Street development team and a discussion with Planning Board Member Casey Anderson & Staff Member Elza Hisel-McCoy. An upcoming meeting will include dialogue with Urban Parks (likely in November). October meeting to discuss accessory apartments in Montgomery County.
 - Commercial & Economic Development Committee: September meeting with Neighborhoods Committee (see above). Noted key takeaway from September meeting, community members can always check in with plan reviewers to be involved in the process. Staff serves as a personal contact and can advise and inform the community. Jerry Godwin (Wheaton Business Innovation Center) expected at the November committee meeting. Update on funding for Taste of Fenton Village to be provided in November.
7. *Councilmember(s) Comments/Reports*:
 - Rich Romer (office of Valerie Ervin): 3rd Annual Youth Town Hall on Wednesday, October 10th. Councilmember Ervin is kicking off an initiative for a County Food Recovery Effort. An upcoming meeting with Washington, DC Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser will focus on some of the shared issues facing DC and MD, including dog parks, parking and the 16th street circle. A public meeting is anticipated in the beginning of December.
 - Debbie Spielberg (office of Marc Elrich): Council PHED Committee is discussing the accessory apartment issue. 2012 County Housing Policy; draft form to be discussed by Council in November. Includes discussion on tenant issues, for example the surcharge on month-to-month renting.
8. *Chair's Report*: Recommends board members and community follow the Silver Spring Citizen's Advisory Board 'group' on facebook.
9. *Director's Report*: Discussed economic activity outside the downtown area, including Montgomery Hills Commercial Area. September events: Planning 101 (conversation with Park & Planning) & the 2nd Faith Dialogue. **Encouraged groups to send meeting notices as soon as possible for inclusion in the E-Blast.**
10. *New Business*: Potential for Board to march in Thanksgiving parade on Saturday, November 17th. More details to come. Discussed some of the Board Liaisons to other groups, need for liaison reports at future board meetings.
11. *Adjourn*: 8:55pm

**Summary of Joint Meeting of the Neighborhoods Committee and Community Economic Development Committee, Silver Spring Citizen's Advisory Board
Held Monday, October 22, 2012**

Participants: Board members, including: Praj Kasbekar, Chris Stoughton, Evan Glass, Dan Morales Jessica Fusillo, Sue Decker; Reemberto Rodriguez, Director; approximately 10 other community members, and guests.

Jennifer Wise, Park and Planning, presented an overview of the zoning rewrite currently in process in Montgomery County and the specifics of the proposed zoning text amendment regarding accessory apartments.

Glen Orlin from the County Council's staff shared his analysis of the zoning text amendment and an update on the discussion and proposals that emerged from the PHED committee that day.

There was a robust discussion of the issues involved in adding density through accessory apartments, including affordability, parking, and aesthetics. (See summary sheet comparing existing to proposed.)