

SSCAB Meeting Summary
March 11, 2013

1. *Welcome, Introductions & Announcements:* Chair Evan Glass called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Introduction of SSCAB members and community attendees. A number of attendees representing Downtown Silver Spring Teen Jamm spoke about their need for a permanent space to hold events. The group has generally been successful promoting opportunities, but needs a consistent, accessible location for the intended monthly event. Board suggested Fajita Coast building, will follow-up with Teen Jamm to connect with property owner.
2. *Acceptance of summary of prior meeting:* February 11, 2013 meeting minutes accepted.
3. *Conversation with Steve Silverman, Director of Economic Development:*
 - Provided some background info on the County; 4.9% unemployment last month, 2nd lowest in the State but was about 2.8% in 2007. Significant jobs lost in construction. Office buildings are only moving forward with tenants signed on (no spec construction). High-rise apartments are the only types moving. Low single family housing starts last year.
 - Retention of existing companies is key; large companies in the region are pretty much able to name their price.
 - United Therapeutics at Spring/Colesville will expand after County sold them the adjacent garage.
 - About 33,000 businesses in Montgomery County; 96% are 49 employees or smaller, 66% have 5 or less employees. Many opportunities for small business assistance.
 - Land use: White Oak Science Gateway Plan is under review; there's an east/west jobs imbalance, but hopefully the White Oak plan will help.
 - Next wave of job creation/current focus: cyber. Also focusing on green jobs.
 - Youth/Nightlife: task force has been formed to examine 'night time economy' – don't cede the youth to Arlington County.
 - Discussion re: small businesses impacted by new development/rents. County seeks to help where possible, and Silver Spring can support some businesses relocating; ultimately it is historically an issue, and the county doesn't have resources to buy down rents.
 - Discussion re: purple line/transportation funding. State funding levels should be clarified somewhat in next few weeks; transportation trust fund is key. Per County staging requirements, no Science Center without CCT funding.
 - Discussion re: FBI building. Government criteria (55 Acres, near metro/beltway) eliminated County's private sector from bidding. Location in Prince George's County could help Montgomery too. Ultimately this will take years to play out.
 - Economic development is important now because that's how we pay for County services in the future.
4. *Councilmember(s)' Comments/Reports:*
 - Rich Romer (Valerie Ervin): Council is partnering with Center for Smart Growth @ UMD to study the Purple Line; double utility poles in Downtown Silver Spring – Councilmember Ervin has asked T&E to look at this issue. Town Hall meeting @ AFI upcoming with Council. Transmittal of Executive's Budget on Friday (3/15).
 - Debbie Spielberg (Marc Elrich): added consideration of tree bills to Rich's notes.
5. *Committee Reports:* Joint meeting of all 3 committees on February 25, 2013 with Robert Kronenberg (County Planner) re: concerns over adequate green space. Based on feedback from

this and other meetings, the Board was presented a draft letter with recommendations to address community concerns. Discussion regarding the amenities fund, need for transparency. Letter approved with minor revisions.

6. *Update from the TMD & UDAC:* No update presented to the Board from TMD or UDAC.
7. *Chair's Report:* Encouraged tracking of redevelopment of The Blairs. Board retreat on 4/6 @ Board member Ed Levy's home. Tree Committee will be meeting in March on recycling in Silver Spring. Two vacancies remain on the SSCAB Board.
8. *Director's Report:* Would like to see more apartment renters on the Board. Town Hall @ AFI with Council, encouraged attendance. June 2nd, Taste the World in Fenton Village. As always, good information is available in the E-Blasts.
9. *New Business:* n/a
10. *Adjourn:* 9:00pm