

SSCAB Meeting Summary
September 9, 2013

1. *Welcome, Introductions & Announcements:* Chair Evan Glass called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Introduction of SSCAB members and community attendees.
2. *Acceptance of summary of prior meeting:* July 22, 2013 meeting minutes accepted.
3. *Discussion surrounding public access to the Civil Building ("The Living Room of Silver Spring")* Board heard from representatives of Gandhi Brigade and Silver Spring Town Center Inc, on frustration with new regulations for the Community Access Pilot Program (CAPP) that require a minimum of 45 days to confirm a booking date. Evan Glass had drafted a letter to the County Executive that suggested the CAPP revert back to original booking rules that allowed an organization to reserve a date while their application was in process. Board approved the letter.
4. *United Therapeutics' plans to redevelop the spring street garage with a Net-Zero office/retail development.* Letter drafted by Jonathan Bernstein reported SSCAB was impressed with UT's July presentation and supported the plan.
5. *Chair's Report:* Evan and Reemberto had just returned from a meeting on the CIP Budget with County Executive and Senior Leadership staff. Emphasis was on 1) Schools 2) Transportation – down county sidewalks, bike share, multimodal transportation and for upcountry-more roads and bus routes. There was also acknowledgment of a proposal supported by SSCAB to place a multi-generational center at the site of the current SS Library.
6. *Conversation with Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent of MCPS-* with extended Q/A
 - The Opportunity and Challenge of MCPS: School system has done well in traditional measures of success (AP and SAT scores). MCPS students compare favorably to those in other school systems, but within MCPS, Black and Hispanic students do not score as well as White and Asian students.
 - 151,000 students in MCPS with 2500 more arriving each year point to continuing capacity problem.
 - "Information is democratized now" with so much information accessible on the web via PCs and Smart Phones, teachers have a different role as they teach how to apply information.
 - After 12 years, 'No Child Left Behind' rules that emphasized testing scores, will be expiring. Schools will look for new ways to measure success.
 - MCPS is looking at "The Common Core" principles of education- national standards mapped to existing international standards that are more robust than current measures.
 - CIP lacks funding to adequately repair and maintain HVACs and IT infrastructure
 - Schools built in the 70s and 80s are woefully energy inefficient. Retrofitting them is not as successful as building new, but construction budget does not allow.
 - Questions from public focused on the lack of bus service in South Silver Spring to special programs. A particular hardship for this urban area with families that have one car
 - Several parents expressed concern over exclusionary rules changes for immersion students within the BCC cluster. The policy change will undermine support and participation in existing immersion programs, rendering MCPS' popular immersion programs less relevant.
7. *Director's Report:* Lots of festivals to be held this month. Hand-outs provided.
8. *Adjourn:* 9:00pm