

SSCAB Meeting Summary
November 12, 2013

1. *Welcome, Introductions & Announcements:* Chair Evan Glass called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Introduction of SSCAB members and community attendees.
2. *Acceptance of summary of prior meeting:* October 7, 2013 meeting minutes accepted.
3. *Special Guest, Eric Friedman, the Director of Montgomery County's Office of Consumer Protection.*
 - This office has served the county for 42 years. In Maryland, only Howard County and Montgomery have such agencies.
 - Receives 20,000 calls per year and more than 2,000 written requests for information and support.
 - Office of Consumer Protection is not as well-known as the Better Business Bureau, but has more far reaching powers than BBB
 - Mr. Friedman welcomed ideas and suggestions on how to increase the office's visibility.
4. *Councilmember Comments/Reports:*
 - Debbie Spielberg (office of Mark Elrich): Public meetings on zoning re-write are underway. 50 speakers signed up for this evening in Rockville
 - BRT project to be voted on. Routes to be placed on the Master Plan
 - Rich Romer (office of Valerie Ervin): Noted success of the "Audacity of Hoops" basketball tournament in Downtown SS.
 - Food Recovery program underway- \$200K in grants being offered. RFP for a coordinator organization has not gone out yet.
 - Council supports MCPS request for State Funds for new school construction
5. *Committee Reports:*
 - CED: Sue Decker promoted the upcoming workshop with YELP for small Businesses scheduled for 11/18. Mike Bishop and Kier Conroy to present. Taste the World at Fenton Village is scheduled for Sunday 5/4/14
 - TREE: Dan Morales reported on the pedestrian safety meeting.
6. *Chair Report:*
 - Thanksgiving Parade participation confirmed
7. *Regional Director's Report:* encouraged members to community meetings and events at our own list serves.
 - Storytelling event with David V Hunt- cross generational, cross cultural storytelling.
8. *Community Comments:* Member of the public asked about support to request the opening of the pedestrian passageway by NOAA. Moving some chain-link barriers back would seemingly allow for easy passage and shorten the walking route for many in the upcoming winter months
 - Board agreed that Regional Director would inquire about the process for moving the chain link fences back.
9. *Votes:* After a discussion on the fenced-off 'green space' next to the Transit Center, it was voted to allow Evan to draft a letter that recommended that the county consider shifting the fences back to allow for public use of this space. With so few parks and public green spaces in the downtown area, this small area could offer temporary respite within the concrete of downtown during the indefinite time when the transit center will be closed.
10. *Board Exercise:* General public allowed to leave as the board gathered to learn more about each other's backgrounds, interests and neighborhoods. The number of activities and organizations that board members supported and volunteered at was impressive. This was an exercise that recognized the new members who have joined since the summer retreat.
11. *Adjourn:* 9:10 pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS / UPDATES

Commercial and Economic Development

CED hosted a Small Business Marketing seminar on November 18 at the SS Civic Center as part of the build-up to the May 2014 Taste the World in Fenton Village. The event focused on the use of social media. Mike Bishop of YELP spoke first about how small businesses can use Yelp's free services to publicize their services. Yelp has also agreed to sponsor an entertainment stage at the May event. In addition, Kier Conroy, a community activist and social media expert, discussed how small businesses can make effective use of Facebook, other social media tools, and websites. An enthusiastic group of local small business representatives attended, and were uniformly positive in their reactions to the event.

Transportation, Energy, and Environment

The TREE committee had a meeting in October about Pedestrian Safety that I sent my notes in for. We met Monday to go over strategy for upcoming meetings so we have nothing to report for November. The head of the committee is Katherine Kortum who has extensive experience in transportation issues which I think we all agreed in our Monday meeting should be the focus in the near future. Katherine will be putting together a more concrete agenda based on the input we received for the coming year.

Neighborhoods

Jessica Simon and Adam Vicks agreed to lead the Neighborhoods Committee. Next meeting will focus on