

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
October 16, 2014

Members Present: Brian Abramson, Mussie Betre, Carmen Camacho, Dan Figueroa, Don Hague, Amy Poisson, Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

Members Absent:

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Don Hague, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
- The committee voted unanimously to approve the September meeting summary.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Alan Felsen, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- Two robberies occurred recently, one at 16th St. and Cameron St., and the other in Takoma Park. The same individuals are suspected in both cases.
- Garage auto thefts are down - one arrest has been made.
- The bike team has been addressing homelessness issues in the area, issuing tickets for trespassing and disorderly conduct where warranted.
- One jump-in auto theft occurred at the Exxon gas station on Colesville Rd.
- A body was found in Jesup Blair Park. No final cause of death has been determined.
- A break-in occurred at Manchester Rd. and Sligo Creek Parkway. An arrest was made in connection with Takoma Park burglaries.

Dialogue with Commander Marcus Jones, Montgomery County Police - 3rd Precinct

Commander Marcus Jones, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- The third police precinct covers the downtown area, from 16th St at the DC line, to Georgia Ave., over to Forest Glen, Dennis Ave. & University Blvd and Route 29 all the way to the Howard County Line.
- Police staffing in downtown Silver Spring has increased over the last 3 years.

- A total of 179 officers staff the third precinct. 13 new officers graduated with the September police academy class and will be deployed in December of 2014. The third precinct may see an additional 4-10 recruits over the next six months.
- The Decentralized Community Action Team (DCAT) is a team of officers deployed on special assignments and specific crime problems.

Dialogue with Susan Hoffman - Downtown Silver Spring Events

Susan Hoffman, Montgomery County Department of Recreation

- Ms. Susan Hoffman provided an overview and brief history of the Department of Recreation's role in 3 major downtown Silver Spring events (the summer concert series, the Silver Spring Jazz Festival and the Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade).
- The summer concert series currently runs 8 concerts per year, and has been running for 25 years. The Silver Spring Jazz Festival has run for 11 years, and the Thanksgiving Parade has run for 17 years.
- Committee members discussed various aspects of the Jazz Festival, and asked questions about how the headliners are chosen, as well as space concerns given the Festival's annual growth.
- Some consideration and discussion time was given to expanding the Festival to more than one day.

Dialogue with Mike Diegel, Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

Mike Diegel, Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee

- Mr. Mike Diegel provided a brief overview and history of the Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment Advisory Committee's role. The committee currently has 13 members, who serve 3 year terms.
- The committee works to create and promote space for the arts and entertainment. The committee also advises the County Executive on how to promote economic development and strengthen arts and entertainment in downtown Silver Spring.
- The committee has assisted with the opening of the Fillmore performing space and the Majestic Theater, as well as advised on various development proposals and budgetary issues related to the arts.
- The committee is also involved in placemaking, including various aspects of the Purple Line and the VanGo, as well as pedestrian wayfinding and promoting areas for pop up galleries and restaurants.

Operations Report and Announcements

Mr. Richard Bingham, Silver Spring Urban District

- Mr. Bingham gave an overview of current Urban District work and office events.
- The Urban District is currently focused on winter weather prep, various brickwork repairs, planting new trees and repairing street lights.
- Other issues include rearrangement of staff and supervisory assignments, as well as working in teams to address homelessness issues and the still high levels of graffiti within the Urban District.
- Staffing needs continue to be addressed, with interviews for vacant positions occurring, as well as revamping of position descriptions.

New Business

- Ms. Darcy Buckley, of the County Executive's office, briefly discussed plans for a new event to be held outside of La Madeline at the end of October. The event would be part of Community Service week, featuring 4 bands, art displays and other activities in a "pop-up" placemaking theme.
- The committee briefly discussed their letter to the County Executive regarding the FY15 budget, and decided to continue their discussion via e-mail to determine budget priorities.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.