

SSUDAC Meeting Summary
April 18th, 2019

Members Present: Mussie Betre, Diana Brown, Michael Larson, Gus LeGrand, Jane Redicker, Juanita Stewart, Mel Tull

Members Absent: Carmen Camacho, Jay Elvove, David Fogel, Thomas Kaufmann

Call to Order and Introductions:

- The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m.
- The March meeting summary was unanimously approved.

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Montgomery County Police, Third District

- Four thefts from vehicles were reported in the previous week.
- Eva Lounge has had its liquor license revoked. Society Lounge continues to move forward with installing a sound abatement system on their rooftop.
- The County Executive has authorized additional funds for private security to address homelessness in the CBD, particularly the area near Progress Place.

Montgomery County Trends: A Look at People, Housing, and Jobs Since 1990

Carrie McCarthy, Chief, MNCPPC Research & Special Projects Division

- Ms. McCarthy gave a thorough overview of the MNCPPC's recent demographic housing study focusing on the development and planning history of the Montgomery County & adjacent D.C. areas.
- The study was conducted in preparation for MNCPPC's update to the local area General Plan.
- This is the first time the Plan will be updated since 1969. Population and technology and transit changes will have significant impacts on the updates to the Plan.
- The scheduled kickoff for the Plan Update is June 2019.

A Fresh Approach to Events Produced by the Urban District

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez discussed the current approach to signature/marquee events in the Urban District / A&E District and ways to update them to reflect the increasing 'feet on the street'.

- The Jazz Festival in particular may be due for a 're-do', given it came to be 15 years ago as a means to bring people downtown; and now it is one of many successful festivals.
- Some ideas - all being budget neutral - include scaling back the festival and spreading the event to smaller venues and activities throughout downtown, without compromising the focus on Jazz and other aspects of the African American history of Silver Spring.
- A small number of SSUDAC committee members volunteered to form a Jazz Festival working group to explore possibilities.

Silver Spring Urban District Report

Richard Bingham, Silver Spring Urban District

- Concrete work in the Urban District will begin in early May, once nearby work on Easley St. is completed.
- Urban District employees have worked hard to ensure the cleanliness of the CSX tunnel, cleaning it up to six times per day.
- Mr. Bingham met with representatives from 311 to discuss updating the Urban Districts' Knowledge Base Articles (KBAs).
- The Program Specialist II position has been posted and will be advertised for two weeks.
- Urban District staff continue to collect Optional Method Development billing information.

Regional Area Director's Report

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez noted the upcoming Capital Improvement Budget Forum on Monday, April 22nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.