

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board Meeting
March 8, 2021
DRAFT Minutes

Attendees:

1. SSCAB members:
 - a. Lysette House, Chair of Board
 - b. Sofia Bushen, Vice Chair
 - c. Melanie Fonder Kaye, Parliamentarian
 - d. Jeremy Dickey
 - e. Jay Elvove
 - f. Michelle Foster
 - g. Patricia Germann
 - h. Ed Levy
 - i. Don Slaer
 - j. Lene Tsegaye
 - k. Debra Wylie
 - l. Jeremy Dickey
 - m. Janice Marquez
 - n. Harriet Quinn (SS TMD)
 - o. John Seelke
 - p. Vanesa Pinto
2. RSC staff:
 - a. Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
 - b. Shawn Morris, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
3. Speakers:
 - a. Commander Darren Francke, MCPD
 - b. Lt. Brent Kearney, MCPD
 - c. Councilmember Gabriel Albornoz
4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Kathleen Connor (obo Congressman Jamie Raskin)
 - b. Lisa Martin
 - c. Jonathan Bernstein
 - d. Michele Higgs
 - e. Simeon Tomoszewksi
 - f. Michael English
 - g. Atara Margolies
 - h. Sebastian Smoot
 - i. Noah Karn
 - j. Jill Luchner
 - k. Karen Roper
 - l. Scott Pomeroy
 - m. Rachel Evans
 - n. Deborah Mack

- o. Mayra Bayonet
- p. Melissa Williams

Agenda:

1. Introductions
 - a. Lysette opened meeting
 - b. Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members introduced selves and the evening's speakers
 - c. Attendees introduced selves in the comments

2. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Minutes from SSCAB meetings in **February** were slightly amended for name spelling, and adopted after accepting all amendments proposed by CAB members prior to this meeting

3. Public Safety Report from Commander Darren Francke
 - a. February crime update
 - i. Another good month as far as crime stats go with one exception (comp Feb 20 to Feb 21) - attribute putting add'l resources toward auto thefts, etc.
 1. Reduced auto thefts by 73 percent over the year; only four in Feb.
 2. Larcenies and thefts down 35 percent
 3. Fraud down 21 percent
 4. Destruction of property down xxx percent
 5. Burglary down xxx percent
 - ii. Outlier: robbery
 1. Eight in February; entire district up in robberies. Downtown is attributed to some D.C. youth committing multiple carjackings and robberies; have since had a reduction
 - iii. Going into spring, looking at Ellsworth Place
 - iv. Police reform update (Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights) - moving through statehouse: <https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/bs-md-pol-leobr-senate-committee-20210220-fzrp6uuirjbev5k5lgwck6ufba-story.html>
 1. Officers worried about qualified immunity
 - v. Ghost guns: A proliferation of ghost guns that allows people to sell almost complete gun parts - people are buying left and right and they are so easy to complete - order online, no serial number and no tracking number; ATF looking at revisions; non-serialized, anybody can build these easily, disposable
 - vi. School resource officers: Most diverse group working as a unit next to Honor Guard;
 1. School to prison pipeline is not happening in MoCo
 2. Out of 160K plus students, 200 hundred some incidents last year
 - vii. Staffing: really impactful meeting with Councilmember Albornoz

1. Staffing - lost five officers with less than five years of experience to other agencies
 2. MoCo on lower end of pay compared to other agencies
 3. Broad brush - words are hurting profession causing people to leave or not apply
- viii. Question 1: Bethesda Beat article / Chief Jones - what's so hard about being painted with this brush if we're so confident a George Floyd thing won't happen here?
1. Answering calls about why did this person get put on the ground, etc, wears on officers, combined with the qualified immunity and officers question 'Am I safe?' - "Policing is not pretty."
 2. To have a very loud group of people constantly saying "you're racist, etc" - not arguing there are bad actors out there - but to paint everyone the same brush is not what we should be doing - wears on everyone; surprised at how many people are not willing to engage
- ix. Question 2: Michell's ask for assistance in helping with crossing guards or (?) across Georgia & Seminary when kids go back to school in April.
1. Offline/ TBD with traffic division
- x. Lene - thank you as a business owner since 1996
- xi. Vanessa Pinto - Long Branch resident - grateful for officers trying to do work closely with community - it was working until pandemic - big improvements in confidence
4. Conversation with Councilmember Gabe Albornoz (At Large):
- a. Appreciation and note that he missed visiting the SS Civic Bldg 67 times pre-pandemic! h/t Reemberto!
 - b. Over 24K residents have applied for unemployment since last year; kids have been out of school for a year; businesses closed, etc., evictions in the queue
 - c. Almost 1400 MoCo residents have lost their lives to COVID-19, missed opps, weddings, funerals, etc. (inc his grandmother who died from non-COVID causes a few weeks ago.) Still -- optimistic about upcoming year -- federal leadership transition -- racial equity and justice -- It's when really dramatic things happen that really significant change happens. Inexcusable disparities in pandemic - we are going to be addressing those head on moving forward
 - i. Vaccine questions: there are now three vaccines - federal govt has exclusive contract with them, responsible for states to distro - early on MD gov determined this would be determined on percentage of population - MoCo has received 17 percent per week - doesn't take into account regional hospitals, other factors - we have the highest percentage of senior citizens, which is not also taken into account - we have been disproportionately impacted as well bc of diversity
 - ii. Pushing for: mass vaccination site in MoCo; centralized registration; greater percentage of dosages

- iii. J&J is a game-changer
 - d. Question 1: Lysette on MoCo public libraries - favorite service
 - i. A: rec centers partnered with libraries - favorite is library system has been very intentional about book available reflect variety of interests and culture in MoCo plus role on customer service to meet people where they are
 - e. Question 2: Don to created SS BID - seems to duplicate Urban District and seems to take control of SS services from Urban District - thoughts?
 - i. Still working through committee, hasn't take a position on it yet
 - f. Question 3: Lene - letter -- need to follow up
 - g. Question 4: Vanessa - questions around vaccine communication
 - i. Misinformation, etc. Best way to counter is to work with the community on information campaigns
 - h. Question 5: John Seelke - complicated messaging over so many messages
 - i. Confusion, fraud, etc. is a real problem; people to people connection really makes a difference
 - i. Question 6: Lene: Are there any considerations to postpone BID?
 - j. Question 7: What has CC done to help child care industry stay afloat?
 - i. Specific funding allocated, next round of federal support will have more
 - ii. Looking at space
 - iii. Implemented plan that included additional resources "Montgomery Moving Forward" to engage private sector
 - k. Question 8: can county allocate high-impact vaccines?
 - i. Looking at pre-reg in existing zip codes
 - ii. Actively in discussions w pharmacies (pop-ups embedded in communities)
 - iii. Building robust transportation networks - following up with a navigator
- 5. CED
 - a. Role of business owner in vaccination rollout
 - b. Up next: TBD
- 6. Neighborhoods
 - a. Long Branch last meeting
- 7. Michelle committee
 - a. Route 29 colesville road -
- 8. John Seelke - ask for CRAG update
- 9. Urban District - TBD

Letters

- John Seelke - access to Internet, many offerings ended at end of 2020 - vote to move forward after small updates
- Letter asking CC to push back decision - BID

- Michelle reported that last month's Committee meeting was a discussion by MCDOT on their plans to improve pedestrian connectivity between the neighborhoods and the proposed BRT on Rt 29/Colesville Road. During the discussion it occurred to the TREE Committee that there were a great number of transportation plans in the SS Regional District and we realized that it would be helpful to have the Planning Department to compile a summative document of all the plans. This would especially be important to help secure federal funding from the Biden Administration. As a result we drafted a letter of advice for the full Board to consider.
- Council Member Report - Noah Karn

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