

SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD
Monday, January 13th, 7pm
Silver Spring Civic Center, Veterans Plaza
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- **Board Members:**
 - Katherine Lucas McCay
 - Melanie Fonder Kaye
 - Tania Laden
 - Ken Lemberg
 - Don Slater
 - Michelle Foster
 - Jeff Le
 - Katherine Lucas McKay
 - Lene Tsegaye
 - Sarah Hoffman
- **County Officials/Planned Speaker(s):**
 - Nahom Tekle
 - Shawn Morris
 - Jacob Newman
 - Lt. Tony Galladora
 - Valeria Carranza
 - Cecily Thorne
- **Public:**
 - Brian Thai
 - Suradee Thai
 - Conner Bryant
 - Dainel Moijueh
 - Scott Franklin
 - Mike English
 - Curtis Watkins
 - Stephanie Heising
 - Angela Walker
 - Anita Krishnamurthi
 - Caty Angel
 - Deborah Mack
 - Emilee Towey
 - Jill Lurchner
 - Meg Louis
 - Portia Scott
 - Rachel Teter
 - Teri Alexander

1. Introductions
 - a. Melanie brought the meeting to order, seconded by Ken.
 - b. SSCAB members and members of the public introduced selves.
2. District 3 Police and Public Safety Update
 - a. Sad news that we lost an officer to a house fire recently, [MFF Chris Higgins](#).
 - b. Preliminary numbers show crime is down in 2024 compared to other areas. Believe it is a combination between hookah lounges policy and drone as first responder and other initiatives and officers going out there, doing their jobs, and making a difference.
 - c. Homicide Georgia Ave. bridge still under investigation. Will provide an update if an arrest is made.
 - d. Priorities this year include shoplifting, assaults, and staffing.
 - e. Glenda Franco and Brandon McCloud are community resource officers that can talk to communities.
 - f. Three stores in Fenton St. area got hit and three stores in Bethesda with the same suspects, cases still open. Most categorized as nighttime burglaries. One was classified as a robbery due to an employee being present and confronted.
3. Budget letters review (Ken & Katherine):
 - a. The board typically writes 1-2 budget letters per year, and potentially more as needed.
 - b. Topics:
 - i. Housing
 1. Rental assistance.

2. “[Good cause eviction](#)” is a big priority which passed the House last year but not the Senate.
 3. Office of Landlord Tenant Relations.
 4. Attainable (affordable to a range of incomes) versus affordable (income-restricted) housing.
 5. Continuing added funds for the emergency assistance program.
 6. People on SSDI/SSI cannot meet minimum income requirements to live in the buildings downtown without a cosigner, and cannot afford to live downtown where they can live without driving. The available (and often wait listed) properties are located in more car dependent parts, and many disabled people cannot drive and would benefit from being downtown. Ask around for how to fix this, and also see if it is legal that people are refused apartments due to not meeting income minimums due to being on SSDI/SSI.
 7. Improve ability to find out about and obtain housing vouchers for people with disabilities on SSDI/SSI.
 - ii. The Silver Spring Urban District and the Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment District
 - iii. Commercial space and economic development
 - iv. Public safety
 1. Recruit officers. 911 shortage. Apply for job [here](#).
 2. Drone program.
 - v. Vision Zero ([traffic safety](#))
 - vi. Accessibility
 1. Ability to afford living downtown while on SSDI/SSI income (see above note under housing).
 2. Senior programs. The Leggett, Aquatic Center, Silver Spring Villages. We want more stuff. Quality of the services; nobody is auditing these providers when it is all said and done, not operating in a way that is conducive to a senior or even a person.
 - vii. Resources for homeless residents
 - viii. Libraries
 - ix. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
 - x. Youth programming
 - xi. Food security
 1. Saturday Farmer’s Market accepts SNAP/EBT (food stamps), WIC, and senior FMNP with matching for federal benefits (read more [here](#)).
 - c. Desire to advocate for business affected by Purple Line development. Assistance needed for business during the disruption.
 - d. View all of these priorities as complementary rather than competing.
 - e. [Red Shirts](#) and other programs are the types of asks that we should consider (e.g., asking for continued funding).
 - f. Reallocate PLD money from downtown Silver Spring, re-mention that we don’t want it reallocated.
 - g. Pet waste, enhance enforcement of pet waste policies?
 - h. Sustainability, zero emissions, as well as mitigation efforts/green construction with housing.
 - i. I would love to highlight the importance of investments in youth/after-school programming as a combination of school district investments, rec and parks, and funds for community partners to ensure affordability for all families. Thanks!
4. Councilmember(s) Report

Commented [s1]: Did I capture this correctly?

- a. Council Member Stewart's Office (Cecily Thorne)
 - i. Bring your own bag bill to ban plastic bags in the county. Public hearing tomorrow.
 - ii. Parking bill related to Progress Place having nowhere for people to park, and other situations where Purple Line construction has taken away parking.
 - b. Councilmember Glass (Valeria Carranza)
 - i. Purple Line project is 73% complete.
 - ii. WSOC has lifted the limited water use request as of about an hour ago. In the first 2 weeks of January there were almost 200 water breaks and about 40 of them were on Sunday alone. Each break takes 8-9 hours to repair. Water breaks and icy conditions caused some of the reservoir to go down. Because people adhered to the water restrictions they were able to replenish and lift the restriction today.
5. Regional Director's Report (Jacob Newman)
6. December 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval
 - a. Motion to approve December Committee Meeting Minutes as amended made by Michelle, seconded by Tania.
7. Open discussion
 - a. Virtual attendee inquired in the chat on whether there is a program for a 'library of things', where residents could borrow larger/expensive items that may not be realistic to purchase. Katherine said she knows who to ask.
 - b. Motion made by Melanie seconded by Michelle to replace the Jan. 27th SSCAB Committees meeting with the Jan. 28th SSUDAC meeting.
8. Adjourned at 8:24pm
 - a. Motion to adjourn made by Katherine, seconded by Melanie.

Sarah Ruth Hoffman, Secretary