

**SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**  
**Silver Spring Civic Center, Veterans Plaza**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Attendees:

- **Board Members:**
  - Melanie Fonder Kaye
  - Tania Laden
  - Ken Lemberg
  - Don Slater
  - Jeff Le
  - Lene Tsegaye
  - Sarah Hoffman
- **County Officials/Planned Speaker(s):**
  - Nahom Tekle
  - Shawn Morris
  - Jacob Newman
  - Lt. Tony Galladora
  - Valeria Carranza
  - Cecily Thorne
  - Luis Estrada
- **Public:**
  - Dainel Moijueh
  - Curtis Watkins
  - Angela Walker
  - Rachel Teter
  - Raphael
  - Eric Copeland
  - Chris Farrell
  - Jonathan Bernstein
  - Susan Peterkin
  - Robbin Lockhart
  - Debbie S
  - Harriet Quinn
  - James Williamson

1. Introductions
  - a. Melanie brought the meeting to order, seconded by a board member.
  - b. SSCAB members and members of the public introduced selves.
2. District 3 Police and Public Safety Update
  - a. Robberies at businesses, stores, restaurants
  - b. Visibility control, detective work
  - c. Ertters Market two robberies (new coverage [here](#)), detectives actively working on those cases
3. University Boulevard Corridor Plan (Luis Estrada):
  - a. Presentation:
    - i. Planning process and context
    - ii. Outreach and engagement summary (over 1,000 conversations in 6 languages, and other extensive outreach and engagement were described)
      1. Need safe connections to parks
      2. Want to ensure affordable, available quality housing
      3. Traffic congestion is a concern, as is speeding and reckless drivers
    - iii. Draft plan summary
    - iv. Next steps:
      1. The Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing on the University Boulevard Corridor (UBC) Plan for **Thursday, February 27 at 6 p.m.** The public hearing will take place in the Second Floor Auditorium at M-NCPPC's Wheaton Headquarters (2425 Reddie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902), and it will be livestreamed on the [Planning Board's website](#).
      2. Current draft plan: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Public-Hearing-Draft-DG.pdf>
4. January 2024 Meeting Minutes Approval
  - a. Motion to approve January Meeting Minutes made by Ken, seconded by Melanie.

5. Councilmember(s) Report
  - a. Council Member Stewart's Office (Cecily Thorne)
    - i. Bring a better bag bill will be passed, likely tomorrow.
    - ii. Great meeting today on the Purple Line.
    - iii. Some grants were announced today by the state to help businesses through the Purple Line transition. It looks like a difficult application process but we are working with partners to make sure we are getting help for people to apply.
    - iv. Information and resources on the Council website has been put together to help Federal employees affected by recent job cuts.
    - v. HOTC (homeowners tax credit) bill to expand assistance to help people pay.
    - vi. Surveillance bill related to drone program to ensure that the drones are not being made to surveil people. Bill creates guardrails to protect residents from implications of current and future technology.
  - b. Councilmember Glass (Valeria Carranza)
    - i. Uplifting victims and immigrants safety act helps immigrants who are applying for a special visa for victims of sexual and domestic violence, trafficking, etc. and who will assist law enforcement in helping to fight these crimes. This bill removes the arbitrary 10-year statute of limitations on when the crime occurred. In 2024, the police received 140 applications, 69 were certified, but 64 were denied with more than 16 denied due to the statute of limitations.
    - ii. Legislation involving lowering construction costs to help lower housing costs passed unanimously last week.
    - iii. Nearly 1/3 of Purple Line tracks have been laid, 19 of 21 stations currently under construction and the project is more than 75% complete. Silver Spring platforms and canopy complete.
    - iv. Last year the county approved funding to help 40 businesses who are now receiving \$1,800 per month to help with Purple Line transition.
    - v. Regarding the newly announced state grants, businesses are eligible if within a quarter mile of the Purple Line alignment with 50 or fewer employees and less than 2 million in gross sales or are certified in Maryland Small Business Reserve Program. PurpleLineMD.com. Grants up to \$50,000.
6. Regional Director's Report (Jacob Newman)
7. Open discussion
  - a. [MerMagic Con](#) (the largest mermaid convention in the country) will be coming to the aquatics center soon.
  - b. This Sunday the recreation center will have a [Valentine's day event](#).
  - c. New website is up! SilverSpringDowntown.com.
8. Adjourned at 8:32pm
  - a. Motion to adjourn made by Don, seconded by Ken.

Sarah Ruth Hoffman, Secretary