

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting
February 14, 2022
Minutes

Attendees:

1. SSCAB members:
 - a. Lysette House, Chair of Board
 - b. Sofia Bushen, Vice Chair
 - c. Katherine Lucas McKay, Secretary
 - d. Melanie Fonder Kaye, Parliamentarian
 - e. Jay Elvove
 - f. Michelle Foster
 - g. Patricia Germann
 - h. Kenneth Lemberg
 - i. Ed Levy
 - j. John Seelke
 - k. Lene Tsegaye
 - l. Not present: Debra Wiley, Don Slater; Daniel Moijueh; Vanessa Pinto

2. RSC staff:
 - a. Shawn Morris, Silver Spring Regional Services Center
 - b. Jacob Newman, Silver Spring Regional Services Center

3. Speakers:
 - a. Commander McBain (MCPD)
 - b. MC Chief Administrative Officer Rich Madaleno
 - c. Del. Lorig Charkoudian
 - d. Del. David Moon

4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Del. Al Carr
 - b. Carmen Facciolo (MCPD)
 - c. Jane G
 - d. Joseph House
 - e. Noah Karn (Office of CM Glass)
 - f. Paul Gellar
 - g. Rebecca Howland
 - h. SR Decker
 - i. Scott Pomeroy

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. This meeting is recorded (the chat is saved)
- 3. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Minutes from SSCAB meeting in **JANUARY** were accepted
- 4. Public Safety Report (neither Commander McBain and Lt. Reed attended)
 - a. Welcoming Carmen Facciolo - our first civilian chief of community services within MCPD
 - i. First employee hired into this new role. His role is connecting communities with the police department
 - b. Jacob provided update on plans for increasing police presence in the SS Urban District and addressing the perceived spike in crimes in the area and proposed restrictions on certain late-night businesses (ongoing small meetings)
- 5. Topic 1: Budget update (Rich Madaleno, CAO)
 - a. County is doing better than anticipated. Higher revenues from housing taxes and fees as well as the income tax.
 - b. Future is bright because Millennials are hitting their stride career-wise and taxes on their labor and assets will support the county's operations for decades to come.
 - c. We deeply need to invest in infrastructure of all types. Thankfully major federal investments are coming on top of state and local.
 - d. QUESTIONS:
 - i. KLM: What's the deal with relying on contractors? And why has the number of regional services staff been going down?
 - 1. Ans: CE is working on converting HHS contractors to full-time employees but that was slowed down by pandemic. It is still a priority.
 - ii. Ken: What about budgeting for Affordable Housing?
 - 1. Ans: ?
 - iii. Paul Gellar: Question about the increase in revenues
 - iv. SR Decker: how can we get MNCPPC to repair the Sligo Creek Golf Course parking lot?
 - 1. Talk to the Council but it might also get support through the current CIP (even though it is not in the PDF of the proposal)
- 6. Topic 2: State legislative update (Delegates Lorig Charkoudian and David Moon)
 - a. Lorig Charkoudian:

- i. Montgomery County BID legislation is going forward. It looks likely to pass. SSBID will have one year to come into compliance once the new provisions pass
 - ii. Vision Zero legislation is a challenge. There are few supports on SHA side, though there is a commitment in MDOT and other areas of government to change that. Her legislation to make fixes more quickly is moving forward. HB 656.
 - iii. Federal Infrastructure \$\$ includes a grant application due in April that they want to use to fix GA Ave. She is on top of SHA trying to make them meet the deadline.
 - iv. Climate. Preparing to get federal funding, there are many state-level changes to make so that Maryland can make the most of that money.
 - v. Federal infrastructure bill competitive opportunities - let's make sure the Hogan administration does not leave money on the table with this. Write into all bills requirement that the governor maximize federal support for certain issue areas.
 - vi. Shore up funding for child care programs with state surplus.
 - vii. Paid family leave will probably pass this year.
- b. David Moon:
- i. Frustrations around pedestrian safety and VZ.
 - ii. His bill on school bus cameras. DTSS is #1 location in entire county (Colesville and Spring, 1400 block of E/W hwy) for drivers not stopping for school buses. You MUST stop. No matter what. Moon wanted to use \$\$ from the camera fines to support sidewalks but was blocked.
 - iii. Evictions - funding for the right to counsel program. Raising the eviction filing fee.
 - iv. Cannabis legalization. They want equity provisions and crim justice provisions nailed down first.
 - v. Funding for state employees is a priority for him and others.
 - vi. Ghost guns are a legitimate problem. It's been a problem in D20. It was a factor in the McGruder school shooting
- c. Questions:
- i. KLM: Vision Zero - what levers can they best push at state level to improve things?
 1. LC- SHA being better - they have oversight and relationships. Also the spot improvements need major funding. They commit to do things but then sit unfunded forever. Her bill is min funding level for spot fixes. And also requiring them to consider interim safety options for projects that will take longer than a year to plan, assess, and implement.
 2. LC - When Viers Mill Rd was resurfaced with federal \$\$ the guidelines in the book said lanes should be narrower to encourage slower driving but the state just disregarded its own guidelines and

did not do it. She has a bill to require the state to adhere to guidelines that prioritize safety

3. DM - Problem is that the governor is hostile and it's hard to make progress without leadership at the top of the administration.
- ii. KLM: eviction prevention and tenant services?
 1. DM - Our governor is hostile and it's hard to make progress without leadership at the top of the administration. Hogan ended the eviction moratorium early. He did not allow additional protections. The legislature also did not last session finish the bill to raise eviction filing fees. We should use some of the surplus to fund access to counsel programs.
- iii. Jay: problems with left turn lane at Sligo Parkway and Colesville/29. It's left on arrow only but that means buses including school buses must either cause traffic to back up or run the light. Should not be that way in the morning. Also unmuffled cars - what happened to the bill about that?
 1. LC: we can look at this. Also the reversible lanes might disappear after Dale. Also cc us on everything you write to MDOT about it.
 2. DM: bill on unmuffled cars is being led by PGC colleagues and it is moving forward. There are concerns around enforcement mechanisms and penalties.
- iv. Lene: what is going on with funds for businesses along the Purple Line?
 1. DM: I think the County is responsible for dispersing the dollars, so check with them
 2. LC: yes. The initial \$250k grants to about 20 businesses

7. Committee meeting updates:

- a. Last month committee meetings were Monday night 1/24
- b. February committee meetings will be 2/28
 - i. Neighborhoods - high school principals
 - ii. TREE -
 - iii. CED - discussion of small business experiences at this point in the pandemic
 - iv. SS Covid-19 Community Committee
 1. Vax event at St. Camila's Church recently reached 300 people. Second event reached another 200. A third will happen 2/20 Sunday after services
 2. Similar one-offs still happening. One was at Pollo Loco last week in Long Branch.
 3. Omicron wave is passing now. Some restrictions are lifting, others still in place. Mask mandate set to lift 2/21 (next Monday)
 - v. SSUDAC:
 1. Commander McBain update on crime was less positive than the update he gave at the last SSCAB meeting

2. Focus was the Elizabeth House Recreation Center to open soon.
Very exciting.
3. Security issues with parking and skateboarding
4. New trees will be planted this spring

8. Councilmembers' reports

- a. CM Glass (from Noah Karn)

9. Delegates' reports

- a. Al Carr attended

10. Chair's report

- a. Support your local libraries!

11. Regional Area Director's report:

- a. Most updates have been covered
- b. Downtown Silver spring and adj communities hearing this thursday!

12. New Business

- a. Sligo Creek Golf Course parking lot and driveway. Sue Decker and Rebecca Halland. They sent the letter to us. They hope to get our support. **Want us to send a letter to Parks and Planning, too.** It's the Wolf Trap of Silver Spring