

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting
January 10, 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. Daniel Moijueh
 - j. Vanessa Pinto
 - k. John Seelke
 - l. Don Slater
 - m. Lene Tsegaye
 - n. Debra Wiley
 - o. *Not present:*
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. Lt. Reed (MCPD)
 - c. Pamela Dunn (Senior Legislative Aide, County Council)
4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Bill Scanlan
 - b. Brenda Freeman
 - c. Busy Graham (Carpe Diem Arts)
 - d. Carolyn Lampila
 - e. Cheryl Gannon
 - f. Chris Leacock (Office of CM Navarro)
 - g. Christine Morgan
 - h. Dawn Leaf
 - i. Deborah Ingram
 - j. Del. Al Carr (D-18)
 - k. Elizabeth Joyce
 - l. Marcie Stickler
 - m. Harriet Quinn
 - n. Indira Martell

- o. Jane S
- p. Joan Warren
- q. Jonathan Bernstein
- r. Joseph House
- s. JTG?
- t. Karen Roper (Fenton Village)
- u. Katie Stauss
- v. Kerry Korpi
- w. Khalid Afzal (MC Planning Department)
- x. Lou Raz
- y. Mary Reardon (Montgomery Preservation)
- z. Meredith Wellington (Office of the County Exec)
- aa. Michael DeLong
- bb. Michael Larkin
- cc. Michael McClary
- dd. Mike English
- ee. Mirchaye Sahlu
- ff. Nancy Abeles
- gg. Noah Karn (Office of CM Glass)
- hh. Roberta Steinman
- ii. Susan Miles
- jj. Theresa Cameron
- kk. Tina Slater
- ll. Tony Byrne
- mm. Upneet Atwal (office of CM Hucker)
- nn. Zachary Weinstein

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 **DECEMBER** were accepted
4. Public Safety Report (Commander McBain and Lt. Reed)
 - a. Crime is trending down now
 - b. More officers working downtown
 - c. (I was taking attendance and missed most of this)

5. Topic 1: THRIVE 2050
 - a. See end of document bc it's LONG

6. Committee meeting updates:
 - a. Last month committee meetings were not held due to holidays
 - b. Next committee meetings will be Monday night 1/24
 - i. Neighborhoods and TREE doing a joint meeting about=====
 - ii. CED will have Daniel Karoma, SSUD director, and will focus on legislative action on small business issues during this term of the MD legislature
 - iii. SS Covid-19 Community Committee meeting 1/12 for first time in a while. Updates to come
 - iv. SSUDAC:
 1. Matt Johnson presented on Fenton St bikeway and Commander McBain shared same info as tonight
 2. Carson Henry, UD director, talked about operational issues like taking down dead trees and planting, red shirt staffing

7. Councilmembers' reports
 - a. Glass (Noah Karn)
 - i. Vaccine passport conversation will begin next week
 - b. Hucker (Upneet Atwal)
 - i. Focusing on Board of Education decisions and frustration of literally everyone with how they have handled Omicron wave
 - ii. Working on homelessness and supporting our unhoused neighbors during these freezes (especially since shelters are still in emergency/temp locations)

8. County Executive's report
 - a. Meredith Wellington is encouraged that people who are concerned about problems with Thrive 2050 were here tonight
 - b. Invites folks interested in land use priorities to meet with her

9. Chair's report
 - a. Thanks Del. Carr for being here!

10. Regional Area Director's report:
 - a. Just had Long Branch meeting on community center closure. March reopening deadline pushed probably to April. It is very difficult for the community to live without a community center but the construction challenges make it impossible to meet the March date (which is also later than initially promised)
 - b. Fire in Long Branch over the weekend at Garden Apartments. 56 residents displaced, 44 are temporarily housed. MHP is doing fundraiser. El Golfo and others have already organized donations, too.

11. New Business

- a. n/a

Notes from the Thrive comments:

I know that I missed some folks' comments but I took as many notes as I could

QUESTION 1: Is this vision consistent with your views of how the County should develop and grow over the next three decades?

- A. Katherine Lucas McKay: yes. And I support Thrive. It's time to vote.
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- B. Tony Byrne: Yes. Environmental and climate focus
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- C. Dawn Leaf: Goals are good but Thrive will destroy tree canopies, so no
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside Park
- D. Roberta Steinman: No because it would allow by right development
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside Park
- E. Michael DeLong: Yes
 - a. Renter?, Long Branch
- F. Cheryl Gannon: Wants to see Thrive 2050 pass this year. But we need better master planning for small businesses to thrive
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside
- G. Mike English: Yes. His vision for MoCo is more housing. Including Affordable Housing.
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring
- H. Zachary Weinstein: Yes. Because he cares about the tree canopy and transit oriented development is the best way to protect trees in the whole community not just your block
 - a. Renter, DTSS
- I. Gray Kimbrough: yes
 - a. Homeowner, East Silver Spring
- J. Michael Larkin: yes, because it will help us be resilient to climate change
 - a. Renter?, n'hood unknown
- K. Carolyn Lampila: yes, because she wants more people to be able to have the excellent experience that she does living in South Silver Spring
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring

QUESTION 2: In your opinion, what are the three most important issues facing the County as it relates to land use?

- A. Michelle Foster: denser housing, more effective transit, infrastructure needs
 - a. Homeowner, Montgomery Hills
- B. Katherine Lucas McKay: 1) add LOTS of affordable housing, 2) take space away from cars, 3) make our parks accessible!
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside

- C. Busy Graham from Carpe Diem Arts: We really want to see restoration of Jesup Blair House be a priority and has some concerns with Thrive overall but it's not bad
 - a. Homeowner, East Silver Spring
- D. Joan Warren: not a fan of Thrive, has no land use priorities, but does like the goals of Thrive
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- E. Kerry Korpi: land use priority is wants more office to housing conversions. We need more people there to make small businesses thrive
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside
- F. Mike English: 1) more housing 2) more housing including Affordable Housing 3) transit
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring

QUESTION 3: Does Thrive address these issues in its vision, policies or practices? If not, what would you add or change?

- A. Patricia Germann:
 - a. Renter, DTSS
- B. John Seelke: there is not enough balance between economic development and equity, also does not want to see more interruptions to small business operations due to construction
 - b. Homeowner, East Silver Spring
- G. Katherine Lucas McKay: Thrive does not sufficiently address accessibility in the county
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- H. Mary Reardon: No. "I don't want things to change." Also duplexes destroy trees. Opposes Thrive.
 - a. Homeowner, next to Parkway Deli (is that Chevy Chase?)
- I. Indira Martell: The process is her concern because Planning and Council did not do a good job talking to people of color even though they are a majority in MoCo. Only one Black speaker before her. Concerned about displacement risks with development.
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside
- J. Karen Roper: We "should not build market rate housing" and there should be "much more severe limits" on any new market rate housing. We only need Affordable Housing now. But condos that are market rate and Affordable should be allowed.
 - a. Homeowner, East Silver Spring
- K. Vanessa Pinto: Like Indira, concerned about lack of outreach to communities of color. The lack of trust in local gov is a serious barrier to effective engagement in her community, lower-income Latino folks in Long Branch
 - a. Renter, Long Branch

- L. Cheryl Gannon: the prescriptiveness of Thrive's language is a problem. We need a lot of flexibility to make this useful all the way until 2050
 - a. Homeowner, Woodside

QUESTION 4: In order to maintain and improve the County's quality of life, what issues should the County focus on in the next 20-30 years- if these are different from the issues discussed earlier?

- A. Katherine Lucas McKay: While Affordable Housing is not best dealt with by the Planning Department, it is SUPER IMPORTANT and both the County Exec and County Council must do more. We need a big bold strategy and lots of money devoted to this
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- B. Mike English: housing affordability at market rate and Affordable Housing
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring
- C. Tony Byrne: we need a more strategic approach to matching housing supply with housing demand
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside

QUESTION 5: Do the policies and practices in Thrive provide sufficient guidance to address these issues? If not, what would you add or change?

- A. John Seelke: Affordable Housing needs to be part of Thrive
 - a. Homeowner, East Silver Spring
- B. Katherine Lucas McKay: Most of what is not in there is ok with me, because Thrive is a good overall guide and that's we do need flexibility like Cheryl said. This is pretty good. Please do not go back to the drawing board!
 - a. Homeowner, North Woodside
- C. Mike English: I agree with Katherine's comments
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring
- D. Harriet Quinn: speaking for self, but informed by participation in SS Transportation Management District Advisory board. Laudable goals but it's not all there yet. Main concern is we struggle to manage implementation of infrastructure. She likes that master plans get more specific. Thinks the Council is moving too fast.
 - a. Homeowner, Woodmoor (NOTE that her home is not in SS CAB zone)
- E. Marcie French/Stickler: We should put housing at Georgia and Cameron, not elsewhere. She is upset that tearing down the old Planning Department building meant losing some trees.
 - a. Homeowner, DTSS
- F. Carolyn Lampila: "Thrive is where it needs to be and is ready for the Council to take up"
 - a. Homeowner, South Silver Spring