

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting
March 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. Daniel Moijueh
 - k. Vanessa Pinto
 - l. John Seelke
 - m. Don Slater
 - n. Lene Tsegaye
 - o. Debra Wiley
 - p. Not present:

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

3. Speakers:
 - a. Lt. David Reed (MPD)
 - b. Patrick M. Campbell (Office of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Mass Care)
 - c. Scott Goldstein (Fire Rescue)
 - d. Robin (?) (Montgomery County Recreation)
 - e. Adriane Clutter (Montgomery County Recreation)
 - f. Carrie Headen (Montgomery County Recreation)

4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Upneet Atwal (Office of CM Hucker)
 - b. Adrienne Butler
 - c. Becky Sherbloom
 - d. Jewell Lyons
 - e. Joseph House
 - f. Lynn Rose

- g. Paul Geller
- h. 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 **FEBRUARY** were accepted
4. Public Safety Report (Lt. Reed)
 - a. Regional task force on violent crime and drugs in DTSS and elsewhere in DC/PG/MC, numerous arrests made
 - b. Needs everybody's help with SS and Bethesda seeing vehicle theft and theft from vehicles. Bad habits among drivers - leaving unlocked, leaving open. Especially hard for delivery drivers
 - c. Alcohol and Beverage Services in DTSS have been problem area for crime as well
 - d. Central Biz District overtime detail continuing. 50 additional officers in DTSS and adjacent (Piney Branch)
 - e. Optimistic about direction things are heading in. High closure rate (90%+). Good work with the community.
 - f. Fire and Rescue and MPD partnering on the apartment fire
5. Topic 1: Lyttonsville Rd. apartment fire (Patrick M. Campbell, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Mass Care and Scott Goldstein with fire rescue)
 - a. Great collaborative of county agencies and nonprofits.
 - b. Goldstein has pics of the fire and aftermath (ppt will be posted on SSCAB website)
 - c. Mass Care is a department within DHHS that handles mass accidents, health events, emergencies. They set up at Cofield Rec Center nearby. Sent people who could not stay in their units for safety reasons to hotel, also all the people in the 3 destroyed buildings.
 - d. Coordinating the County/MHP/nonprofit partnership to raise money and that has been super helpful. Please donate CASH not items.
 - e. 41 families received about \$70k in immediate assistance (the permanently displaced). Free month market rate rent and sec dep returned

- f. About half have already signed new leases. But not moved in. Some struggling to find other housing. Some staying with family. Some in hotels paid by the management company or the County
 - g. They will try to help people find new housing in their preferred neighborhoods but it is difficult
 - i. Also working with HOC to get as many people housed quickly through subsidies but that's a challenge too
 - h. In Flower Apartment explosion people had case workers for 4 years - that's the reality. We will need to help displaced people from this explosion for several years.
 - i. JUST GIVE CASH
 - j. Intensive case work required now. Same with other services and stuff.
 - k. Kids by state law get to stay in school they were zoned for
 - l. Replacing Covid cards up to SS benefits. Lost immigration documents
 - m. QUESTIONS:
 - i. Adrian Butler: For gas leaks, what if you're cooking and have active burners
 - 1. SG If you have active burners (flame) on in your unit - turn them off. The don't turn off or turn on - is focused on electrical switches - all potential ignition sources. Do NOT turn off or on electrical switches, just gas devices
 - ii. What about revitalizing the site to bring the housing back into habitability?
 - 1. Months to years to get some of the buildings good to go. One is a total loss. One is a 50-50 of total loss. About a quarter can be back online in a few months. About a quarter will take 2+ years
 - iii. What if people want to give items not cash?
 - 1. JUST GIVE CASH. Items can go to other programs (list provided in chat)
6. Topic 2: Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment District redesignation (Elizabeth Gallauresi, Arts Administration, Event Planning, and Cultural Programming)
- a. PPT will be available on the SSCAB website
 - b. Tax preferences in the arts district
 - i. Artists: If you live or sell work in the district you do not have to pay income taxes on anything you sell in the district
 - ii. Nonprofits: actually do not benefit from locating within the district tax-wise
 - iii. For profits with arts-oriented business: Real Property Tax Abatement
 - 1. 10 year benefit that phases out
 - c. Increases branding, econ dev, tax base, tourism. Prior to pandemic studies by major employers that the amount of attractions and entertainment were highly valued when they decided to relocate. That's what employees want
 - d. 200 arts and entertainment places, installations, events, etc. in the District! Now 2 years into covid we have 160 active restaurants in the District. The Arts orgs and venues are worried about the public being afraid of enclosed spaces

- e. Challenge, back in 2008 when this was new and the GR happened, they got more federal, state, and local support than this time (wow, really?????)
 - i. Aside - first designated in 2002, re-designated in 2012, re-designation ongoing now
 - ii. Concern about permanently lower revenues after covid though without that public support
 - f. Let her know in the chat whether we are comfortable going back to theaters and indoor spaces
 - g. Questions:
 - i. Fillmore subsidies not entirely appropriate given that they were required to provide content for all ages?
 - 1. Elizabeth: not accurate. It's possible she's incorrect. But she is aware that nfps get reduced costs for use of the space and the County gets a few free uses per year
 - ii. Have you asked past performers about take-up to learn whether people bother to adjust their federal income when they file state?
 - 1. No, but we do a lot to promote it. Tbh, the benefits for living here do not outweigh the costs of housing in DTSS for many artists.
7. Topic 3: South County Regional Aquatic Center (Amanda DeFilipo, Adriane Clutter, Carrie Headen)
- a. Completely different recreation strategy for the Silver Spring area
 - b. Within the Elizabeth House property, will include seniors affordable housing and county offices on first floor when it's done. On Apple Ave, abutting the train tracks
 - c. Pool, aquatic center, full-sized gym that can be subdivided, big fitness room (yoga classes etc) other rec stuff. Pickle ball!
 - i. A "huuuuuuge" swimming complex. Big competition pool, also a rec pool shallow water but deep enough for lap swimming and water fitness classes. It will be warmer. A nice big spa for everyone. Leisure pool with slides for kiddos and swimming lessons.
 - ii. Rock climb wall into pool!
 - iii. Lots of family changing areas
 - d. Teaching kitchen, rentable, also a cafe. Will offer public classes? For whom? Also a social hall.
 - e. Holy Cross services co-located in the same building
 - f. The area is super dense and so is the building. Not much yard space.
 - g. QUESTIONS
 - i. The other beautiful building in DTSS-ish was wonderful but has been poorly maintained. Will this go better?
 - 1. Yes, we have budgeted for the lifecycle of its needs
 - ii. Eliz House to be demolished. Many seniors there will move to new building. Noise problems concerns.

1. That's a long-term project led by HOC - it's slow. Unfortunately noise pollution and loud work at weird hours sometimes will be an issue.

8. Committee meeting updates:

- a. Last month committee meetings were Monday night 2/28
 - i. CED was... (?)
 - ii. Neighborhoods was neighborhood principals
 - iii. TREE was Vision Zero
 1. Impact! They finally got a signal at Sligo and Colesville/29. Thanks Michelle and Jay! SHA relationships have really improved. Michelle has done amazing work. All praise Michelle.
 2. Random but important - there are some upside down speed limit signs on Fenton St. Sofia to email Jacob with details
 - iv. Covid Recovery Committee - Vax clinics still happening. Lots of people who still only had one shot and aren't fully vaxxed. Masks going away until CDC says otherwise
 - v. SSUDAC - Updates from Fillmore on events (Doing a Harry Potter event soon), Busy Graham discussed Jessup Blair Park and the House, briefing on the AED redesignation
- b. March committee meetings will be 3/28
 - i. Neighborhoods - Parks and Rec
 - ii. TREE - how to get the County to plant a tree in your yard
 - iii. CED - Women's History Month
 - iv. SS Covid Recovery Committee -
 - v. SSUDAC: further convos on all previous issues are upcoming in the next 3 days

9. Councilmembers' reports

- a. CM Hucker (from Upneet)
 - i. The increased police presence and the regional PD collab have led to many gun seizures.
 - ii. Building energy performance standards bill moving forward
 - iii. CM Hucker supporting \$1M to safe routes to schools project budget. It's currently \$400k
 - iv. Working on full return of Ride On service while raising driver pay
 - v. BRT implementation of Wheaton to Germantown
 - vi. SSDTAC master plan is in PHED Committee and moving forward within the Council
 - vii. Interagency meeting on Newell St last week with them, Jacob, Parks
 1. "Shared street" as defined by the planning dept, like Reedie in Wheaton
 - viii. QUESTIONS

1. KLM how are CMs and the County planning to advance this despite Thrive being off schedule?
 - a. If the SSDTAC master plan is to be completed by this council it must happen by May or June. Thrive vote might not happen beforehand. Hans, Will, Andrew need to get the SSDTAC out of PHED to be able to vote on it, but we want to get it done before this council adjourns. Hucker plans to propose some amendments based on resident feedback.
2. Question from Michelle that I missed about the economic development section of the plan

10. Delegates' reports

- a. n/a

11. Chair's report

- a. Support your local libraries!

12. Regional Area Director's report:

- a. Downtown Silver spring and adj communities work ongoing.
- b. Need more input from residents on Newell St. and on DTSS public safety issues.
- c. Lene and Sofia repping CAB in public safety sessions with MPD. Talk to them about how we as a body can weigh in on the convo
- d. CE's operational budget coming out tomorrow let's get organized

13. New Business

- a. Sligo Creek Golf Course parking lot and driveway from us is drafted. We voted to approve the letter being sent with unanimous support.