

**Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting  
January 11, 2021  
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. Jeremy Dickey
  - f. Jay Elvove
  - g. Michelle Foster
  - h. Patricia Germann
  - i. Ken Lemberg
  - j. Ed Levy
  - k. Janice Marquez
  - l. John Seelke
  - m. Don Slater
  - n. Lene Tsegaye
2. RSC staff:
  - . Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
  - a. Shawn Morris, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
3. Speakers:
  - . Darren Francke, Montgomery County Police Department
  - a. Lt. Brent Kearney, Montgomery County Police Department
  - b. Will Jawando, Councilmember At-Large
4. Additional attendees:
  - . Loretta Argrett
  - a. Peter Banwell
  - b. Jonathan Bernstein
  - c. Megan Tracy Benson
  - d. R Brecher
  - e. Maria Carmona
  - f. Sean Emerson
  - g. Ryan Hardy
  - h. Tim Haverland
  - i. Joe House
  - j. Leslye Howerton
  - k. Shin Inouye
  - l. Lori Kaplan
  - m. Malissa Lash
  - n. Ellen Lazar
  - o. Deborah Mack
  - p. Taman Morris
  - q. Dori Paster
  - r. Vanessa Pinto
  - s. Judy Reed
  - t. Joe Reinhard
  - u. Karen Roper
  - v. Sonya Snedecor

- w. Danielle Spencer
- x. Simeon Tomaszewski
- y. Stephanie White

**Agenda:**

1. Introductions
  - a. Lysette opened meeting
  - b. Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) members introduced selves and the evening's speakers
  
2. Minutes from previous meeting
  - a. Minutes from SSCAB meetings in **December** were adopted with one amendment--adding Patricia Germann to the attendees
  
3. Public Safety Report
  - a. Reduced vandalism, theft from vehicles
  - b. COVID has created issues with delivery drivers leaving their keys in running vehicles that get stolen
  - c. MCPD involvement in response to Capitol insurrection: a few dozen officers were part of the response; no one was seriously injured but they faced greater resistance and lawbreaking than at any of the protests they worked over the summer
  - d. Questions from CAB:
    - i. Any updates on racist graffiti in Woodside Park? Cars were defaced. ANS: No.
    - ii. Lone adult man in North Woodside recently stopped a girl and another time a young woman asking them to get in his car. Creepy but not illegal. What do we do? ANS: keep calling us and be SPECIFIC about the problem, don't just report a suspicious individual. He is not breaking the law at present. Any escalation of behavior and any touching should be reported ASAP.
    - iii. More questions about security in advance of inauguration. ANS: so far, we do not know of any direct problems in Silver Spring, but it is one of the two districts most likely to be impacted by events in the District. The MD National Guard is involved but that's all coordinated at state level.
  
4. Conversation with Councilmember Will Jawando (at large): Homelessness, Food Insecurity, and Rent Relief
  - a. Pandemic food distribution
    - i. Pre-covid there were 64,000 food insecure people in MoCo; this has been part of his work for a long time
    - ii. County has supported partnerships with food banks, churches, community groups to do regular food distributions
    - iii. New plans to work with the school system to continue food distributions
  - b. Homelessness services
    - .We had been doing great before the pandemic. We have seen rising homelessness.
  - c. Rent relief
    - .More federal \$\$\$ is coming
  - i. The county will be doing more for landlords who need to pay bills regardless of whether their tenants can pay
  - ii. Also looking at helping storefront retail and small businesses

- d. New housing bills
  - .Zoning text amendment to allow missing middle housing within 1 mile of transit and close to BRT. Duplexes, triplexes, quads, ADUs, and follow similar rules about form and structure for the rest of the neighborhoods.
  - i. Protection for renters: anti-rent gouging bills. Within 1 mile of Metro, MARC, PL, and half mile of BRT, not allowed to increase rent above
  - ii. Message: we MUST approach this as add housing, preserve existing housing, and protect renters.
  - iii. Public hearings on both bills in February.

5. Discussion and questions from SSCAB members

- a. How can we better connect MCPS families to info about food distributions? Can school PTAs help? ANS: Councilmember Jawando referenced the Montgomery County Food Council and its map on locations to access food. He said he would follow up with the Council to see if they have connected with local PTAs (side note - from the list, it appears they have not)
- b. Questions about the housing bills:
  - i. Why adopt the current voluntary rent guideline? ANS: we got some data about rents in the area's transit corridors over the past 2 decades and determined that most of the time rent increases fall within 1%-4%. We are not set in stone and are open to tweaks during the legislative process
  - ii. Will there be more money and resources available for housing preservation? ANS: yes, but we are not sure the details yet. We are looking at solutions like a preservation fund, community development loans, etc.
  - iii. What obstacles to passing these? ANS: some groups like one piece more than others (ex: developers like ZTA but don't love rent gouging bill, Affordability advocates don't love the ZTA, etc.)
- c. Funding for Hubs past June is uncertain... ANS: Yes and it should not be on the chopping block. I and I think the County Executive (CE) also want to ensure the Hubs continue being funded as we go forward.

6. Committee updates:

- a. Next committee meeting will be a JOINT meeting on 1/25 on tThe Racial Equity History of Silver Spring
- i. Cohosted by Commercial and Economic Development, Neighborhoods, and Transportation, Energy, and Environment.
- ii. Presenters TBD. Will include a local historian, community activists and leaders.
  - b. CRAG (covid reopening advisory group)
    - . Last meeting they set up an agenda for recovery. They're trying to be more proactive and specific about events and actions to take. Food insecurity and housing are important issues. Next meeting W 1/13. We have a social media toolkit to share soon, too.
  - c. SSUDAC: council meeting on Thursday 1/14 at 3:30 about whether to create a Business Improvement District. This would replace the current SSUSDAC

7. Councilmembers' updates:

- a. None beyond CM Jawando

8. Chair's report

- a. Reminder for CAB members about attending upcoming meetings
- b. Executive Committee meets before our main monthly meetings at 6:15. All CAB members are welcome to join us! Please do!
- c. Feb 8 CAB meeting: update from County Council President Tom Hucker and the Chief Administrative Officer of the county

9. Regional Area Director's report:

- a. For the audience members: Connect to me, the CE, County Council, and many CAB members on Twitter. There's a ton of info and many of us have an active presence on county and Silver Spring issues.
- b. Lots of other engagement opportunities! See the newsletter coming soon
- c. Purple Line construction is beginning again! That is great but it might be inconvenient.
- d. Check out the Shared Streets map and support shared streets near you

10. New Business

- a. Foulger-Pratt letter is complete and ready to send to the CE and cc Council Members and Foulger-Pratt
- b. Letter on Digital Divide is drafted and ready for review by full CAB. Lysette will share shortly