

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting
February 8, 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. Daniel Moijueh
 - l. John Seelke
 - m. Don Slater
 - n. Lene Tsegaye
2. RSC staff:
 - a. Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
 - b. Shawn Morris, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
3. Speakers:
 - a. Darren Francke, Montgomery County Police Department
 - b. Brent Kearney, MCPD
 - c. CM Tom Hucker
 - d. County Chief Administrative Officer Rich Madaleno
4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Jonathan Bernstein
 - b. Bee Ditzler
 - c. Stephanie Edelstein
 - d. Sean Emerson (Staff to CM Glass)
 - e. Michael English
 - f. Ryan Hardy
 - g. Tony Hausner
 - h. Michele Higgs (Housing Initiative Partnership)
 - i. Joe House
 - j. Genevieve Kurtz (Staff to CM Hucker)
 - k. Lisa Martin
 - l. Jill Luchner
 - m. Deborah Mack
 - n. John Marcolin
 - o. Julio Murillo

p. Mel Tull

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. Minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Minutes from SSCAB meetings in **January** were adopted after accepting all amendments proposed by CAB members prior to this meeting

3. Public Safety Report
 - a. Reduced auto thefts and thefts from autos but there were 2 car jackings last month (car jackings are up nationwide, too)
 - i. Over past year, Silver Spring had a 100% increase! 7-14!
 - ii. Major concern is that guns have frequently been involved
 - iii. In Silver Spring many have been juveniles
 - b. Robberies are up and it's not just MoCo, it's national
 - c. Question: what did you do to follow up on the case of a MCPD officer harassing and ultimately putting a 5 year-old at East Silver Spring Elementary School in their squad car?
 - i. ANS: additional training on working with kids. Rebuilding trust is a process. We have to do it through our actions. We take it seriously and we have taken steps to prevent it from happening. Tangential: while there are no SROs in elementary schools, this is connected

4. Conversation with Councilmember Tom Hucker (District 5): on Coronavirus recovery efforts
 - a. More than 40 bills to provide relief, \$260 million (mostly federal, some county, a little state)
 - b. Vaccination drive is going ok except for lack of supply
 - c. Problem: state has \$1BB in rainy day fund that Gov. Hogan will not release, and \$585 in surplus to reallocate from 2020 surplus
 - d. His priorities now:
 - i. Shots in arms ASAP
 1. We are not getting the right amount of vaxxes per population every week and state cannot/will not explain it
 2. This week 4,500 received. We have the capacity to administer about 25,000 if we get the supply
 - ii. Fight for resources to supporting local businesses and institutions to help them make it through
 1. Governor's staff won't release Rainy Day Funds

- iii. Do not lose momentum on our policy goals from before the pandemic
 - 1. Especially climate change

5. Discussion and questions from SSCAB members

- a. Tell us about your support for libraries.
 - i. ANS: It's library lovers month! Our libraries have done amazing work throughout the pandemic and I'm proud to continue to supporting them.
- b. Will you be reopening indoor dining at 25% soon, per the bill you're discussing tomorrow?
 - i. ANS: That's the plan. We wish we had regional cooperation on this. There is not a good public health argument for indoor dining at all but because people can go to restaurants in every other jurisdiction around us, it's a business problem. We will watch the numbers and close back down if need be.
 - ii. Follow up: will it be 60m or 90m? The County Exec's order is
- c. What can we do to stop the Beltway and I-270 widening?
 - i. ANS: Advocacy because the Governor is adamantly for it (Citizens Against Beltway Expansion)
 - 1. MDOT trying to address county concerns but not willing to change course so far
 - 2. Peter Franchot is the swing vote on Board of Public Works **INVITE HIM TO COME ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AT SSCAB**
 - 3. MNCPPC owns some of the land so they have more leverage than the MoCo government--keep working with them
- d. Vaccine rollout Qs: what's up with educators and childcare providers? Who counts under "other autoimmune conditions" and "other neurological conditions" given that the CDC and Maryland have included those phrases but not defined them
 - i. ANS: County supply problem is a big thing
 - 1. We're getting more state and federal money to advance vaccinating educators
 - 2. Should start child care providers soon
 - 3. **IDK the answer to part 2 - email my staff (Genevieve Kurtz) and we'll look into it**

6. Conversation with Chief Administrative Officer Rich Madaleno

- a. County revenues are in better shape than we feared. This is not a normal recession and our forecast wasn't quite right. Our high earners are still earning a lot. Our housing market is still hot. And the CARES Act \$600 helped those who were most hurt. Income + property taxes = 45% of our local tax base. Energy taxes have held up ok despite drop in commercial usage (partly bc it's really cold!)
- b. Challenges: Unemployment rate has gone from 2.7% to 6.7% this year, though. And hotel taxes, entertainment taxes both way down.

- c. Aggressively going after federal dollars bc state is not helping. \$90M in reimbursement requests now and we anticipate getting access to FEMA funds that have been denied previously
- d. We expect a pop in the homebuying market as people get vaccinated

7. Discussion and questions from SSCAB members

- a. Tell me why we should always fully fund libraries.
 - i. ANS: my children are too old for the library now? Libraries without books might be the future! Also people want meeting space and library community gathering space
- b. DTSS is a renter community. And they are highly cost burdened. What is the county doing to help renters now and in the longer term? What are you doing about affordability?
 - i. ANS: We've gotten \$60M in rent relief and allocated \$20M
 - ii. From the audience: Renters might also look into the MOCO/Housing Initiative Partnership's Home Sharing Program: HIPhomes.org/home-sharing as a way to address the issue of affordable housing options for renters
 - iii. From Sophia: no longer accepting applicants for the rental relief funds. Still assessing applications. There were more than 9,000. 90% people of color.
- c. What is the CE's position on CM Jawando's rent stabilization bill?
 - i. ANS: I will get back to you
- d. Are you planning to help renters become homeowners in our affluent community?
 - i. ANS: those are mostly state programs and I'm not sure what the county is adding
- e. What's the status of the SS BID proposal?
 - i. ANS: CE Elrich is not a fan. Council committee advanced the legislation. There will be a public hearing 2/23.

8. Committee updates:

- a. January joint committee meeting: [Racial History of Silver Spring](#) covering the histories of African American, Ethiopian immigrant, and Latinx communities in Silver Spring--and the exclusion and discrimination they faced from white neighbors and the county gov. Was excellent. See the linked video.
- b. Next committee meetings will be on Feb. 22. Neighborhoods, TREE, and CED will meet separately as usual
 - i. Neighborhoods:
 - ii. TREE: traffic and pedestrian safety (Vision Zero?)
 - iii. CED: not finalized but COVID-19 focused
- c. Community COVID recovery committee: meeting again this Weds, focused on the vaccination plan

- d. Urban District Advisory Committee: reminder that the UD would be eliminated under the Council's bill to establish a Business Improvement District. Hearing on 2/18.
 - e. Silver Spring Covid Community Committee is just starting up--CAB folks should join if possible
9. Councilmembers' updates:
- a. CM Glass (via Sean Emerson): we'll look into the traffic enforcement camera issues that Jay raised
 - i. Question: what's the follow up on the Vision Zero meeting CM Glass held recently? ANS: We submitted requests to the county staff based on what we heard and this will continue to be a priority for this office
10. Chair's report
- a. n/a (support your local library)
11. Regional Area Director's report:
- a. Please attend the 2/17 meeting (7 pm) on Silver Spring development (will include some stuff around Purple Line as well as housing)
12. New Business
- a. n/a