

Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting
June 14, 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. Vanessa Pinto
 - m. John Seelke
 - n. Don Slater
 - o. Lene Tsegaye
 - p. Debra Wylie
2. RSC staff:
 - a. Reemberto Rodriguez, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
 - b. Shawn Morris, Silver Spring Regional Service Center
3. Speakers:
 - a. MK Wellington (Office of the County Exec, re Thrive)
 - b. Pazit Aviv (HHS Office of Disability Services)
4. Additional attendees:
 - a. Brenda Freeman
 - b. Harriet Quinn

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 meeting in **MAY** were adopted after accepting all amendments proposed by CAB members prior to this meeting

3. Public Safety Report
 - a. None this evening because no one from MCPD responded to the meeting invite
4. CE Elrich's position on Thrive 2050 and Attainable Housing (Presented by MK Wellington)
 - a. Thrive is the update to the general plan for the county. Last one was decades ago. Does NOT change zoning but sets the table for future changes
 - b. County Exec opposed the plan because:
 - i. Council and Planning went too fast during COVID and should have stopped for 2020
 - ii. CE opposes designating some of the areas designated as urbanizing, though did not say which ones
 - iii. Does not support by-right development anywhere in the County
 - iv. Does not believe that it will create less costly housing
5. Discussion and questions from SSCAB members
 - a. How does the CE propose to achieve his commitment to increase the number of Affordable Housing units if he opposes broadly legalizing apartments?
 - i. ANS: Did not address the question. CE supports increasing IZ requirements above 12.5% but has not requested the County pass a law to do so
 - b. If we don't implement Thrive 2050, how would the CE support people who need more accessible homes/aging in place?
 - i.
 - ii.
6. Supporting Disabled and Aging residents after COVID (Pazit Aviv, DHHS)
 - a. Big concerns about neglected health needs during the pandemic. They are working on a program to bring healthcare to people
 - b. Using the GIS tools developed for COVID outreach to ID neighborhoods with high need
 - c. Making homes more accessible is hard, time consuming, and costly. Major challenge is that people don't start until it's an emergency. County and state have some programs to help but they are difficult to access
 - d. Orgs and volunteer teams that got together to help seniors during the pandemic are sticking around and continuing to do great work with us
7. Discussion and questions from SSCAB members
 - a. I asked one
 - b. I asked another one
 - c. Jay asked one about social organizations, SS Village, and SS Cares
 - d. Michelle asked one about aging in place
8. Committee meeting updates:

- a. Neighborhoods:
 - b. TREE: bike improvements on University Ave and shared streets. Next is more cycling stuff, including that and the Fenton Cycle track
 - c. CED:
 - d. COVID recovery committee: taking a break for the summer, may not reconvene in the fall
9. Chair's report
- a. Instead of June committee meetings, celebration at Silver Branch and first in-person meeting
 - b. Discussion of next letters to write: John taking a lead on opposing BID and KLM taking lead on supporting Thrive
10. Regional Area Director's report:
- a. RR was not present but we will be celebrating his service and his retirement on 6/28
 - b. Note: Sofia Bushen drafted a letter of support for Eric Roush (sp last name?) that the group is happy for us to submit
11. New Business
- a. n/a