

**SSUDAC Meeting Summary**  
**September 19, 2013**

**Members Present:** Ernest Bland, Carmen Camacho, Don Hague, Ryan Riley, Melvin Tull, Yuri Van Mierlo, Suzy Zusy

**Members Absent:** Dan Figueroa, Jon Lourie, Dimitri Michaud

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

- Mr. Mel Tull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
- Mr. Tull noted one change to the July meeting summary. Committee member Carmen Camacho motioned to approve the summary (for the record). Ernest Bland seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

**Reports:**

**Urban District Report**

Ms. Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, Silver Spring Urban District

- Ms. Freeman reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Silver Spring Jazz Festival and Ethiopian Festival were both a success. The Jazz Festival clean up ran late due to delays with food vendors breaking down their booths so that SSUD Red Shirt staff could power wash the area.
- SSUD Red Shirts removed 80 bags of trash and 11 bags of recyclables from the Ethiopian Festival.
- Chair Mel Tull asked about attendance numbers for each event. Mr. Rodriguez stated that while difficult to determine exact numbers, estimates were 13,000-20,000 people over the course of the day for the Jazz Festival and 10,000-15,000 over the course of the day for the Ethiopian Festival.
- Committee member Carmen Camacho asked if area restaurants provided feedback on any increases in business during the events. Ms. Freeman replied that an SSUD Red Shirt staff member had solicited informal feedback from a number of businesses and that most reported an increase in business. Ms. Freeman said she would share the feedback with the committee via email.
- Panafest will be taking place at Veterans Plaza on Saturday, September 21, 2013.
- Chair Mel Tull asked about a downed street lamp pole mentioned in Ms. Freeman's written report and what could have caused it to fall. Ms. Freeman replied that normally the poles fall because they have been hit, but that she was unsure as to what had caused this specific incident.
- The State Highway Administration ADA ramp work on the Georgia Ave. sidewalk at Ellsworth Dr. would have potentially impeded pedestrians walking to the Jazz Festival. Ms. Freeman assigned an SSUD Red Shirt supervisor to accompany Mr. Tull on site with SHA contractors in an effort to make the area walkable in time for the Jazz Festival.

- Ms. Freeman mentioned an upcoming meeting with Mr. Tull and SHA representatives to discuss numerous issues related to the replacement of sidewalk materials as SHA contractors work to construct ADA compliant sidewalk ramps.
- Ms. Jane Redicker mentioned trip hazards within the public alley next to the Lee Building. She noted that the brick materials used in the construction were poorly chosen, as trucks use the alley for unloading and loading and easily break them.
- Ms. Freeman also noted that steep grades exist along portions of the walkway where SHA is fulfilling required ADA ramp specifications.
- Mr. Rodriguez asked that committee members utilize the [silverspringud@gmail.com](mailto:silverspringud@gmail.com) email address to report issues on the street.
- Mr. Bland asked if the Advisory Committee had ever had a presentation from SHA regarding their planned construction work on ADA compliant ramps. Mr. Rodriguez replied that they had, but that it was a number of years ago.
- John Marcolin [Department of Park & Planning] noted that Park & Planning sets the streetscape standards for Silver Spring and that it is imperative that SHA works cooperatively with them to maintain those standards.
- Ms. Freeman reported that SSUD landscape contractor Ruppert Landscape had completed tree pruning work in the Urban District, including trees along Second Ave. between Cameron St. and Colesville Rd. that had been scraping against the townhomes. A group of trees (zelkovas) in south Silver Spring have been improperly pruned by an unknown party and Ms. Freeman has contacted a County forester regarding this issue.
- Ms. Freeman noted that the County forester had contacted her about planting trees at no cost to the Urban District. These would replace trees that have been removed within the CBD, but would require the SSUD to have existing stumps removed prior to replacement.
- Ms. Freeman spoke to the committee about a health hazard involving bird droppings, particularly at Cameron St. and Second Ave. In response to citizen requests, she reported that SSUD Red Shirts use a disinfectant and power wash the area regularly.

### Silver Spring Regional Area Director's Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- Mr. Rodriguez noted that the correct date for this year's Thanksgiving Parade is Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- He reported on the abundance of outdoor celebrations taking place in Silver Spring, including South Silver Spring's Street Festival on September 28th and the upcoming Silver Spring Green Fest on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- AFI's Silver Theater recently celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They are hosting a Latin American Film Festival beginning September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Purple Line's environmental impact statement period has been extended by 15 days. Mr. Rodriguez provided a brief overview of issues for each of the Silver Spring regional area stations.

- Mr. Bland asked about what impact the Purple Line construction work will have on businesses on Bonifant St. Mr. Rodriguez replied that there had been a series of meetings with the community and area merchants to discuss the logistical issues regarding access for patrons and deliveries during construction.
- Mr. Rick Siebert mentioned that the Maryland Transit Administration has also been working with businesses to mitigate issues during the Purple Line construction, as it is officially an MTA project rather than a County project.
- Mr. Tull asked about the number of families living above the businesses on Bonifant St. Mr. Rodriguez stated that no such count has yet been done.
- Mr. Tull asked about the Silver Spring Innovation Center smart kiosks, and if they would be presenting to the committee. Mr. Rodriguez replied that he would reach out to Dan Hoffman from the Innovation Center to discuss attending an Advisory Committee meeting.

#### Parking Lot District Update

Mr. Rick Siebert, Director, Parking Lot District

- Mr. Siebert provided a detailed overview of the budget process for the Parking Lot District and Silver Spring Urban District, including breakdowns of revenue and costs, as well as inter fund transfers and other aspects of PLD fund transfers to the Urban District. The Silver Spring PLD has the highest fund balance of the four area Parking Lot Districts.
- Mr. Siebert then presented information about new parking improvements in the Silver Spring and Bethesda areas.
- Electronic signs on street corners will be utilized to alert drivers about nearby parking garages and display exactly how many empty spaces are available in the garages.
- The Wayne Ave. and Town Square garages will be outfitted in FY14 with ultrasonic sensors and signs that will display the number of parking spaces available on each level. Mr. Siebert suggested that the committee could lobby for funds to add these improvements to all other Silver Spring garages in FY15.
- The County's parking availability data is being "pushed" to Cloud distribution, where independently owned smartphone app creators can "pull" it to display available garage and street parking spaces within their apps. There are plans for this data to eventually be pushed to car GPS systems. Currently, the apps only have access to information about garage hours and fees.
- New on-street smart meters have been installed in Bethesda, with plans for these to eventually be installed in Silver Spring. The new smart meters generate 16% more revenue than current coin-operated meters.
- The meters can accept coins, credit cards and provide a pay by cell option. They adjust for varying rates at different times of the day and are solar powered.
- Data from the sensors installed in the on street parking spaces can be pushed to apps to display information about available spaces. The

- sensors detect when cars leave the spaces and remove any remaining time from the meter before the space is occupied by another vehicle.
- Mr. Ryan Riley asked if the data would also be utilized by Parking Enforcement to monitor and ticket cars with meters that had recently expired. Mr. Siebert replied that Parking Enforcement has determined that this is not efficient and that they will be patrolling as normal.
  - Mr. Siebert said that a “pay by space” system could replace older parking meters in parking garages, as it is more cost efficient than replacing all older meter models with smart meters.
  - Ms. Jane Redicker encouraged the committee to consider investing the Parking Lot District reserve funds.

### SSUD Budget Presentation - Advice and Comments

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez & Ms. Yvette Freeman

- Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Freeman shared information and asked for committee input on the Silver Spring Urban District’s budget. Mr. Rodriguez & Ms. Freeman provided an overview of budget categories [Walkway/Curb Repairs, Veterans Plaza Maintenance, Transit Center Area Maintenance, Downtown Marketing, Seasonal Affirmation, Approx. 10% Annual Increase and additional miscellaneous expenses] and historical data on previous years’ budget breakdowns.
- Ms. Susan Zusy asked who would maintain which areas of the Silver Spring Transit Center once opened. Ms. Freeman replied that due to the current circumstances it has yet to be determined.
- Chair Mel Tull and committee member Ernest Bland both supported extra staff for the Urban District, requesting more Red Shirts as well as the possibility of an additional administrative/managerial position devoted to working with other County departments and state agencies to ensure issues in downtown Silver Spring are addressed quickly and efficiently.
- Ms. Carmen Camacho proposed a motion to write a letter of support for the Urban District’s proposed budget and requested items. Mr. Ryan Riley seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.