

Minutes

Sandy Spring Civic Association
Ross Body Center, Sandy Spring, MD 20860
**Special Meeting

August 10, 2020**

Attendance: Board Members – William “Bim” Schaffler, President; Basile “Whit” Whitaker, Vice President; Christine Wilson, Treasurer; Audrey Dutton (Absent), Parliamentarian; Douglas Farquhar, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. Daryl Thorne, Recording Secretary

Attendance: General body 9 & Guests: State Delegates – Dr. Pamela Queen and Anne Kaiser
Attendance Total (approximate): 16

Meeting called to order: 6:33 p.m. by Wm. “Bim” Schaffler and Basile “Whit” Whitaker (via Zoom)

Agenda

(**Note:** This special meeting was called to address 2 items only: BLM statement – second paragraph & Ashton Village Sector public hearing position statement)

Old Business:

July 2020 Minutes approved with no changes.

BLM statement discussion – (Summary presented by Daryl Thorne, author of Statement)

- First part of the statement was published in the Olney News in the June 27, 2020 edition; concern about the use of the word “demilitarization” in the second half of the BLM statement raised by a few Board members which lead to additional discussion → some concerns about “lumping demilitarization with defunding” expressed → clarification about the meaning of “demilitarization” and highlighting the fact that the word *defunding* was not in the Statement, *refund-allocation* was used and (re) explained in the context of re-orienting policing to treating people equitably.
- Full BLM statement (both parts) read to the general body, again; robust discussion held about the context and use of “demilitarization” connected to the intention of the BLM statement with additional information provided, again.
- Robin Z. (initiated the original idea of “demilitarization” as a component of the BLM Statement) → shared that the “concept of demilitarization is bigger than just equipment...indication that policing has gone awry in this Country”.
- Full BLM statement accepted with a minor change to the second paragraph for clarification only; requested to be resent to Terri Hogan of the Olney News after the meeting to be printed in full; adopted by unanimous consent; Bim suggested putting this Statement on the SSCA website.

Ashton Sector Village discussion – (Summary of issue and need for Public Hearing position statement presented by Doug Farquhar and Kathleen Wheeler)

- Planning Board to meet on September 17th for a Public Hearing about the Ashton Village Sector
- Primary concerns shared by Doug & Kathleen → proposed plan regarding the southeast cornering of NH Avenue/Rt. 108 – “small homes on large lots east of Sandy Spring will stay large lots...”; no language about *transition* – no site plan yet; may still have dense development next to less dense buildings; road infrastructure at intersection.
- SSCA Public Hearing position (draft) letter re-cap:
 - Supports keeping Ashton a Rural Village character - zoning and height restrictions
 - Supports a shared use bike path and pedestrian at intersection
 - Crosswalks
 - Design a community advisory committee
 - Adequate transition to south and east
 - Support increased mass transit
- Process of letter writing discussed → Doug will take lead, Daryl to support, draft sent to Board for first look with Bim to sign off on; draft copy to be voted on at 9/14 meeting; final copy to be sent to Olney News and County Council.

Announcement: Thank you to Sandy Spring Slave Museum for allowing the SSCA to use its Zoom account to host this meeting!

Motion to adjourn: 7:20 p.m. by Kathleen and seconded by Bim

Next meeting: September 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. (This begins the regular meeting rotation)