



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

Thurs. January 17, 2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,
Silver Spring Library

AGENDA

**-Purple Line Q&A
Session with MTA
Guest Speaker:
Mike Madden, MTA
Project Manager**

Business Meeting:

Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements
Old Business: Reports
New Business

Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting -- Thursday, January 17, 2008

This is your chance to have your Purple Line questions answered by MTA's Project Manager, Mike Madden!

SOECA's Purple Line (PL) Task Force has compiled our association's questions and comments on the proposed Purple Line, Wayne Avenue alignment. It is SOECA's hope that MTA will address these specific areas during this upcoming meeting as well as provide us with the latest project updates and preliminary results of MTA studies. Please come to this meeting and get the facts so informed decisions can be made regarding this project. As an association it's important for us to evaluate the impacts, both positive and negative, that this project will have on our neighborhood.

SOECA is planning a special meeting debate and vote for SOECA members to be held on February 28, 2008. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on whether or not SOECA will take a formal position on the Purple Line and if so, what that position will be. In order to vote you must **attend the February 28th Special Meeting and be a fully paid member of SOECA. The SOECA Bylaws state that there may be no more than 2 votes per household.**

So before the February meeting, make sure your membership is active by checking with Mr. Bill Kaupert (Treasurer). Membership dues in only \$10 per household (see page 4 for details).

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:

Kathleen Samiy

Secretary:

Ann Johnson

Treasurer:

Bill Kaupert

Important SOECA Membership Debate/Vote

Proposed Purple Line – SOECA Position

February 28, 2008

7:30 p.m

Future SOECA Meeting Dates

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Thursday, May 15, 2008

A Note of Thanks to Kefa Café for providing coffee cider, and treats at our last meeting. They were tasty and very much appreciated! Kefa Café is located at 963 Bonifant Street. Stop in for gourmet organic fair-trade coffee and espresso.

Meeting Minutes: December 6, 2007

Program: SOECA Purple Line (PL) Task Force Update and Dale Drive Traffic Issues

Mark Gabriele first provided an update on traffic issues (other than Dale Drive) that were recently discussed at a meeting for community association presidents and area traffic authorities. A few SOECA areas were reviewed including Cedar and Ellsworth; Worth and Sligo; Dartmouth and Dale; Coleville and Dale. In addition pedestrian safety on Colesville and cut through traffic were discussed. Brief update on each:

Cedar and Ellsworth: crossing light timing adjusted to extend time

Worth and Sligo: traffic authorities came out and determined intersection not appropriate for 4-way stop sign; existing signs have been replaced and restriping of crosswalk is scheduled (most likely in spring).

Dartmouth and Dale: traffic engineers came out to evaluate a crosswalk at top of hill but sitings from road are limited.

Colesville and Dale: to improve safety this intersection is being reworked by County and State traffic engineers; Colesville is a State road while Dale is a County road.

Colesville Road: sidewalks will be widened and shrubs trimmed to improve pedestrian safety.

Recent SOECA correspondence on Purple Line (PL): Mark reviewed recent letters that SOECA sent to Valerie Ervin, Council Member and John Porcari, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation (copy to the Governors office) in mid November. The letters indicated SOECA's disappointment and frustration with lack of response by MTA and Ms. Ervin regarding SOECA's requests for information. When the SOECA Purple Line task force was formed in May, one of their first goals was to immediately initiate a meeting with Valerie Ervin's office. The meeting was to be scheduled anytime over the course of 6 weeks, during the month of June, or into early summer 2007. Despite many repeated attempts, the task force was unable to secure any meeting times with Valerie or her legislative assistant, Ben Stutz.

One member indicated the need to survey SOECA households because opinions of only 12-20 people who regularly attend SOECA meetings is not truly representative of the SOECA 700 households. The point was made that a survey would be a more fair and equitable way to canvas the households and get an idea of what households think of the PL. Discussion then covered the advantages and disadvantages of a survey and additional ways for SOECA to ensure that all households (that want to be heard on this issue) have an opportunity to participate. It was pointed out that surveys are useful in many ways but response rates are typically low (1%). A response rate of 6% is considered by survey professionals as an excellent response. It was agreed that the best way for SOECA to canvas the entire membership is to make sure the February debate/vote meeting is extremely well advertised. We all need to encourage our neighbors to participate in this. One member suggested and volunteered ways to help get the word out for upcoming SOECA meetings and development of SOECA's PL position. It was suggested that signs and boxes with information be placed around the neighborhood prior to meetings. L. Brent offered to coordinate with effort with SOECA.

PL Task Force Update: Members of the Task Force, Kathleen Samiy (Chairperson), Jonathan Elkind and Jonathan Jay provided an update of task force activities since the last meeting.

- Task force will attend the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, Neighborhood Subcommittee meeting and present SOECA neighborhood issues and concerns with the proposed Purple Line, Wayne Avenue alignment.
- Requested community questions for the 1/17/08 meeting with MTA. Questions and comments will be compiled and posted on the listserv.
- Presented summary and main points of interest that members gleaned from the recent open houses sponsored by MTA. Open houses were opportunities to review Purple Line facts and speak with MTA representatives. Preliminary technical information and study findings were available (ridership estimates, specific options under considerations, costs information and breakdown into low, medium and high cost alternatives).
- Ridership estimates range from 29,000 – 47,000 boarding per day on the 16-mile PL route.
- Travel estimates are being revised by MTA and when available will be posted to the Listserv.
- Deep tunnel options have been studied in particular areas other than Wayne Avenue (Thayer/Silver Spring Ave route and segments near University of Maryland and Kenilworth Avenue).
- Not useful to compare the Tysons Corner community actions to the Purple Line because the proposed Tysons line is a Heavy Rail, similar to Metro.
- One Task Force member emphasized the fact that traffic in our area is only going to get worse. As an association it is vital to discuss, understand specific neighborhood impacts/acceptable solutions.
- MTA study results are due in May; SOECA debate and vote in late February is well timed.
- Several members indicated a need for the association to make its concerns known very clearly. Some voiced a concern that our area has not been as vocal as other neighborhoods.

- It was suggested that a **Vision of Our Neighborhood** be developed, to reflect our collective hopes for the precious place we all call HOME.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the October 30, 2007 meeting were approved as amended. Amendment to page 2, last paragraph was noted.

Treasurer's Report for 12/06/07: Checking account balance of \$5,016.70, as of December 6, 2007.

Certificate of Deposit current value: \$2,177.08; Maturity Date: December 3, 2007.

There have been two new members (households) since late October and 25 members have renewed this years membership. Please submit your dues as soon as possible to Bill Kaupert. He may be reached at 301-585-3385 with any questions about membership.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

No new business.

Announcements. Falkland Chase Apartments: Past SOECA president, Elizabeth Conklin provided testimony at the Montgomery County Planning Board hearing to establish historical building status for the apartment complex at East West Highway and 16th Street.

Bennington Park/Leighton Road Right of Way: SOECA extended an invitation to the property owner to come and present information to SOECA regarding the proposed subdivision of property before any decision is made on Mr. Wolf's request for SOECA support in this matter; no response has been received from property owner.

Meeting adjourned at 09:45 p.m.

Purple Line – Important Contact Information

For your information a list of contacts is provided for those who wish to correspond on Purple Line issues with State and County elected and appointed officials involved in PL decision-making process:

Maryland Governor:

governor@gov.state.md.us (Martin O'Malley)

Maryland Department of Transportation

mmadden@mtamaryland.com (Michael Madden, MTA Purple Line Project Manager)

jporcari@mdot.state.md.us (John Porcari, Secretary, DOT)

State Senator and Delegates:

jamie.raskin@senate.state.md.us; sheila.hixson@house.state.md.us tom.hucker@house.state.md.us;

heather.mizeur@house.state.md.us

Montgomery County Executive and Council:

ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov (Isiah Leggett)

councilmember.praisner; councilmember.knapp; councilmember.ervin; councilmember.elrich;

councilmember.floreen; councilmember.leventhal; councilmember.trachtenberg; councilmember.berliner;

councilmember.andrews – all of these: @montgomerycountymd.gov

Montgomery County Planning Board (& Planning Department Staff)

MCP-chairman@mncppc-mc.org (Royce Hanson and other Board Members)

thomas.autrey@mncppc-mc.org

Montgomery County/Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT)

director.dpwt@montgomerycountymd.gov (Arthur Holmes, Director, DPWT)

gary.ehrenrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

Others

Gary.Stith@montgomerycountymd.gov (Director, SS Regional Services Center; also, send in care of him for Debbie Spielberg, Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board)

HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

There are two ways to join the SOECA Listserve:

(1) **Via email**

- Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

(2) **Via Yahoo Groups** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (if you already have, or will set up, a free yahoo id)

- Find SOECA and click "Join this Group."
- Fill in the form, including the email address you wish to use, adding a comment about yourself and why you would like to join the group, and click "Join" at the bottom.
- The ListServe moderator will email you asking for your name and address by a personal response email and after this email exchange, the moderator will add you to the list-serve.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups" of your addition to the list-serve

You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com (Note that it can sometimes take several minutes for your post to be visible so please wait before sending the message again thinking it didn't get through.)

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SOECA BOUNDARIES?

Have you wondered what streets/neighborhoods make up SOECA?

If you live between or on these streets you're in the Seven Oaks – Evanswood Citizens Association.

- Cedar Street to Franklin Avenue
- Colesville Road to Bonifant Street
- Three Oaks Drive (Westside) to Colesville Road
- Carolina Avenue to Colesville Road

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA

Send this slip plus \$10 annual household dues (\$5 for senior citizens and single members) to: Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Would you like to receive this newsletter by email? Yes No <i>(please circle one)</i>
