



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us For Our Next Meeting

Tues., October 30, 2007
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,
Silver Spring Library

AGENDA

-Perpetual Bank Bldg.
-SOECA Purple Line
Task Force Update

Business Meeting:

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

Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

Next meeting is October 30, 2007:

SOECA Purple Line Task Force Update:

There will be a presentation by the Purple Line (PL) task force to report on the following activities:

- Maryland Transportation Administration (MTA) Focus Group Meetings held in October;
- Fact-finding meeting with the County Transportation Planning Office;
- Fact-finding meeting with Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT); and
- Status of Mike Madden/MTA's response to our SOECA resolution requests for an underground study and timely traffic impact studies.

We will also discuss next steps for the task force, November MTA public open house meetings, and upcoming Fall meetings with other civic groups.

The Purple Line will impact our SOECA neighborhood for generations to come. Please attend, your participation is vitally important on this transportation issue facing our neighborhood.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:

Kathleen Samiy

Secretary:

Ann Johnson

Treasurer:

Bill Kaupert

Halloween Spirit in SOECA:

Look out for what surprises are in store this year at the corner of Woodside and Greenbrier. It's a neighborhood tradition, thanks to the Flint family. They organize a pre-trick-or-treat party, with a secret theme each year. Many families in the neighborhood go to great lengths to decorate their homes for the enjoyment of the kids, last year a Blueman jumped out of the bushes to surprise all the trick-or-treaters. Please remember there are children out on the streets so if you are driving home from work or through the neighborhood on Halloween night please drive with great care.

For more community-spirited activities see page 4.

Future SOECA Meeting Dates

Thursday, December 6, 2007

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Thursday, April 3, 2008

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Meeting Minutes: September 26, 2007

Program: SOECA Task Force – Purple Line Facts & Concerns

The meeting began with the association's business portion of the meeting (see below). Mark Gabriele then introduced the evening's agenda, meeting ground rules, and members of SOECA's Purple Line (PL) task force. There are various alignments proposed through residential Silver Spring on either Wayne Avenue or between Silver Spring/Thayer Avenues. All proposed Wayne alignments are above ground, running from either Fenton Street or Cedar Street past Sligo Creek Parkway, and will bisect the SOECA community. In May the PL task force was established and asked to research the proposed Purple Line, potential impacts (positive and negative) to our community, and prioritize SOECA specific concerns. It is important to emphasize that the task force is a group of interested SOECA residents, our neighbors, who have volunteered significant time and energy through the summer months to research and fully understand the proposed PL options through SOECA. Members include: Kathleen Samiy (chair), Peter Afflerbach, Tom DeCaro, Jonathan Elkind, Maggie Harris, Jonathan Jay, Marc Levin, and Dan Sobel.

Each Task Force member introduced themselves stating their specific reasons for volunteering. They stated concerns such as increase traffic in the downtown area and in particular on neighborhood streets, health and impact to Sligo Creek, quality of life issues; changing character of our neighborhood, and importance of having a voice in the process. One member noted four facts to keep in mind during the evening's presentation:

- MTA's Purple Line concept has evolved over time and is no longer a rapid transit system but one with shorter rides, many stops, feeding into Metro. Streetcar with 20 stops is envisioned now.
- No underground route in study
- State and County are leaning towards Wayne Avenue as preferred route through our area
- Wayne is POTENTIALLY the only residential street in the entire proposed PL route (approx. 16 miles). Other routes are on state roads, rights of ways, or CSX rail tracks. [The other East Silver Spring Alignment on Thayer, if chosen, is the only other residential street being proposed.]

A slide presentation was then given covering the following topics: SOECA Purple Line task force; Purple Line project parameters; key impacts along Wayne Avenue; unfinished studies - traffic, safety and environment; MTA's schedules including public involvement opportunities; and the proposed next steps for the PL task force. Handouts showing the proposed PL alignments, complete slide presentation, informational fliers distributed to households, upcoming dates for public meetings, and copy of resolutions passed were available at the meeting. Copies were posted on the SOECA list serve SOECA@YAHOOGROUPS.COM or may be obtained by contacting the task force directly at: soecapl@rcn.com.

Although PL project parameters are evolving 3 of the 4 possible routes go down Wayne Avenue at street level. WORST CASE: MTA proposed vehicles would travel in dedicated lanes and would roughly be the size of 4 Metro buses (180 feet), running every 6 minutes, during rush hours. The task force has identified that an underground option for Wayne Avenue has not been studied and no cost estimates are available for a realistic cost/benefit analysis. Additional impacts to Wayne Avenue were discussed and include: widening of Wayne to 71 feet (6 lanes) at widened intersections in areas to accommodate left turning lanes, loss of trees, no street parking on Wayne, loss of traffic lanes, portal at Cedar and Wayne to transition from underground to above ground before proceeding down Wayne to Sligo Creek, spillover traffic potentially onto other neighborhood streets and Green Trail decisions on hold until PL decisions made.

There are a number of specific data points or studies that are currently unavailable that would facilitate SOECA's review of the project. Critical to the decision making process is the evaluation of an underground option for Wayne Avenue and a traffic study of the area. MTA's schedule and evaluation process was discussed. Key timeframe for community input is NOW through Spring 2008. The next year is critical and SOECA needs to decide whether or not the association will develop a position on the PL to be presented at the public hearing in Spring/Summer 2008. A preferred alternative will be selected in Summer/Fall 2008 with preliminary engineering designs to begin. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2012 -2015.

A resolution requesting that MTA further study and provide timely information to SOECA was proposed and voted on at the meeting. An overwhelming majority of residents approved the resolution asking for both study of the underground option and a timely traffic study. The resolution states 1) Request for MTA to fully study Purple Line tunneled option through residential Silver Spring, Wayne Avenue route, and 2) Request for analyses of future traffic impact with and without Purple Line, to be completed and made public this fall, rather than in the spring.

Because many at the meeting were strongly dissatisfied with an above-ground route on Wayne Avenue and felt that the approved resolution did not convey SOECA's concerns strongly enough a second motion from the floor was proposed. The motion stated, "That the cover letter forwarding the resolution to State and County officials express the membership's strong dissatisfaction with an above-ground Purple Line route on Wayne Avenue." This resolution was also approved. The full text of the approved resolution is included as an attachment to the formal meeting summary and also available on the SOECA listserv. SOECA will forward the resolutions to Mike Madden, MTA Project Manager and request a written response to SOECA's requests.

Business Meeting

Minutes: The minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report for 09/26/07: Checking account balance of \$5,424.61, as of August 31, 2007 Certificate of Deposit matured September 4, 2007 with an estimated value of \$2,167.76. An update of membership renewals received in August and September will be provided in the next Treasurer's report. It was also noted that expenses for newsletter production and Purple Line Task Force activities are not reflected in this current report. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded.

Call Bill Kaupert at 301-585-3385 with any questions about membership or dues.

Election of Executive Committee Officers: the following slate of nominees was presented and approved:

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President: Kathleen Samiy

Vice President/Secretary: Ann Johnson

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

Commercialization of Sligo Creek Golf Course: resolution was presented and motion to support the resolution passed. More information will be provided through the list serve. SOECA is concerned with proposals to develop and expand the current golf course. Interested individuals were encouraged to write the County Council with any concerns about the project

Development of Historic Building at Georgia Avenue and Cameron: plans to develop the Perpetual Building, current location of the SunTrust Bank will be discussed at the next SOECA meeting. The proposed development is for a 14 story retail, condominium, and office building. A presentation will be given by Marcie Stickle of the Silver Spring Historical Society on October 30th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 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)

More Community Spirit in SOECA.....

Springvale Fall Festival: Sunday, November 11, 2007

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come join Springvale Terrace for an afternoon of great entertainment, food and company. We will have musical entertainers, clowns, and magicians so bring the whole family. Springvale Terrace is located at the corner of Wayne Avenue and Springvale Road. If you will be attending, please contact Rebecca Motz at (301) 587-0190.

Silver Spring Thanksgiving Parade: Saturday, November 17, 2007

9:30 a.m.

Don't miss all the fun with neighbors and friends at this annual parade in downtown Silver Spring.

December Cheer/Winter Solstice

Are you interested in participating in a holiday caroling group to bring music and neighborly visits to the streets of SOECA? If interested in leading this event please contact Mark Gabriele or Kathleen Samiy, or look for more information in the next newsletter, online, and at SOECA's December 6, meeting.

Spring Fling/Social: TBD

Would you like to help organize a SOECA Spring Social/Picnic at a local park facility. All ideas and helping hands are welcomed.

Sign Up for Electronic Newsletters:

SOECA newsletters are now available through email. Request email delivery by sending an email to: soeca.newsletter@gmail.com

Neighborhood Watch Program:

Watch Captains are still needed! Please help if you can. Watch Captains are the point of contact in your neighborhood areas and are working on several initiatives (e.g., non emergency numbers and police meetings with burglary victims). If you would like to get involved please contact your area Watch Captain.

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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BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION! WHAT DOES SOECA DO?

- Holds monthly meetings to address community issues
- Provides this monthly newsletter with pertinent neighborhood information
- Helps organize useful programs such as the Neighborhood Watch Program
- Provides a collective voice on behalf of our neighborhoods to state and county representatives
- Participates in meetings addressing Ellsworth and Bennington Parks and other community issues

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>
