



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

**Join Us --
Last Meeting of
2008**

**Thursday, December 4th,
2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,**

**LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library**

**AGENDA
Public Safety Update
Purple Line Updates
Absentee Ballot
discussion**

Business Meeting:
Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements
Old Business: Reports
New Business
Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

**President: Mark Gabriele
301-565-3395**

**Vice Presidents:
Kathleen Samiy
Jonathan Jay**

**Secretary:
Jean Cavanaugh**

**Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385**

***** December Meeting Program ***
SOECA Business on many topics:**

- **Public Safety Initiative**
- **Purple Line Update**
- **Absentee Ballot Discussion**

When: Thursday, December 4th, at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

January 15th, February 26th, April 2nd, and May 14th

SHORT FORM NEWSLETTER:

Due to the fact that many of the SOECA board have been working diligently on Purple Line issues, this newsletter is only two pages in length – this sheet of paper, front and back. No, you're not missing anything.

The SOECA board wishes everyone a very happy holiday season – and many thanks for your involvement over the past year.

**SOECA has a website to facilitate access
to the association's news and information**

Visit www.soeca.org

*Community Issues, Newsletters, Bylaws, Meeting
Information, and much more!*

Notes for SOECA Meeting October 28, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:40 pm. Mark commented on SOECA's Yahoo group and the newsletter's email distribution option. There was unsolicited testimonial from one attendee that SOECA's Yahoo Group was like the "back fence" of our neighborhood. (join by sending an email to: soeca-subscribe@yahoo.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line)

Pedestrian Safety: VP Kathleen Samiy introduced this first order of business. SOECA's Ped Safety subgroup coordinated the posting of 24 signs in our neighborhood to mark Walk to School Day on October 8. The plan was to leave the Prezco (President's Committee of area civic associations) "Walk Safe/Drive Safe" signs up for a few weeks at key locations, but most signs disappeared shortly after they were put up. No one has yet identified who took the signs. SOECA would like to participate in the annual Walk to School Day in a more significant way next year, for example by having children and parents walk to school together. SOECA's Ped Safety subgroup has identified key priority areas for traffic calming and pedestrian safety efforts. They include: 1) putting Stop sign in each direction on Sligo Creek Parkway at Worth Ave.; 2) adding crosswalks on Dale where Ellsworth, Pershing and Dartmouth intersect Dale; 3) work to reduce or eliminate cut through traffic from Dale to Woodside and DDSP via Ellsworth; 4) reduce or eliminate cut through traffic on Bonifant from Fenton to Cedar. Kathleen noted the YouTube video on rush hour traffic between Sligo Creek Parkway and Franklin on Worth (note: search YouTube.com for "worth ave cut through"). The Ped Safety subgroup will put together a list of contacts to write to lobby for our pedestrian safety priorities. There are a couple of things happening at the County level including County Executive Leggett's "road code" and a new Advisory Committee on traffic and calming measures. Kathleen noted that the segment of Dale Drive that runs through Woodside Park will soon have traffic calming measures implemented, including a speed camera.

Purple Line: Pres. Mark Gabriele gave a Purple Line update. The AA/DEIS (<http://www.purplelinemd.com/aadeis>) was released on October 17 and MTA will hear public comments in four hearings starting Nov 15 and ending Nov 22 in Takoma Park. Mark discussed the details of giving testimony. The AA/DEIS is a factual document describing and measuring effectiveness and costs of alternative routes and modes of transport but doesn't select a preferred option. The AA/DEIS doesn't include the tunneling under Wayne Ave option, however SOECA intends to actively engage in promoting the study of a tunnel under Wayne option. The Governor will choose the final route and transport mode. Mark encourages all to participate in the public comment period. MTA accepts comments by mail, email, in person at the public hearings. There was a discussion among those present about how SOECA should be represented at the public hearings. Mark proposed to represent SOECA at a public hearing and to reiterate the results of the vote last spring where the majority of SOECA members voted against an at-grade Purple Line. Some SOECA members present at the meeting belong to a group called "Silver Spring Advocates" and they distributed a flyer that disputes information in SOECA Purple Line Committee's Fact Sheet available on <http://www.soeca.org>. *Some SOECA members at the meeting wanted to vet Mark's statement before he gave it. A member made a motion that SOECA refrain from giving official public comment at the Purple Line public hearings. Seven voted against, four supported SOECA not giving public comment, and three abstained.*

Changing bylaws to allow absentee voting. There is a motion to remove the prohibition against absentee voting. Four members complained last spring when they weren't available to cast their votes regarding the Purple Line configuration. Members present discussed the mechanics of absentee voting including: which issues allow absentee voting; procedures surrounding absentee voting; and whether allowing absentee voting will encourage more SOECA meeting absenteeism. The goal is getting more SOECA members involved and having a voice in issues that concern our neighborhood. Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) does not allow absentee voting. Attendees approved a motion to discuss the issue during the next meeting on December 4.

Miscellaneous: SOECA Treasurer Bill Kaupert recognized Charles Wolf for his contributions to MCCF and to managing SOECA's membership list. There have been 60 new members added since February 2008.

Minutes: All present approved the minutes from the September 23 meeting.

Treasurer's Report for October 28, 2008: Checking account balance \$5,368.25. Certificate of Deposit balance: \$2,202.55.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

No new business was brought forward.

SOECA'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

If you would like to volunteer as a Watch Captain, please contact Scott Lasensky at 301-920-2205, or slasensky@gmail.com.