



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us -- First Meeting of 2009

Thursday, January 15th,
2009
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

Dale Drive Widening
Public Safety Update
Purple Line Updates

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

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

- Public Safety Initiative
- Purple Line Update
- Dale Drive / Colesville
Intersection Widening Update

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

Upcoming meetings:

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

Note from the President:

The Purple Line has dominated the agenda for quite some time; however, the County Council is scheduled to vote on a preferred alignment and mode prior to the end of the month. SOECA's Purple Line-related testimony can be found at the SOECA website (<http://www.soeca.org>). Many thanks to all of our members who have participated in the debate, on all sides of the issue, for your sincere interest and effort to make our community a better place to live.

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!*

Program: Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:40 pm.

Pedestrian Safety. The meeting began with an update of and discussion on several ongoing public safety concerns, the first of which concerns Bill 35-08 (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2008/35-08.pdf>) before the County Council now that will divert portions of revenues from automated traffic enforcement devices, like speed cameras, to cover ambulance fee and pedestrian safety initiatives in county municipalities that do not have a police force. The original intent was to use 100% of revenues for pedestrian safety improvements at the most dangerous intersections in the county. A motion was proposed to work through Prezco (President's Council of Civic Associations inside the beltway) to support any formula for speed camera revenue that distributes all of the funds to pedestrian safety projects based on need. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Kathleen Samiy announced that Jennifer Chambers, who is taking a lead on Prezco's pedestrian safety issues, is putting together a checklist on dangerous areas in our region to present to the County transportation offices. She's like to hold a meeting with representation from each of the 12 civic associations in Prezco in January 2009. Please email Kathleen Samiy if you want to be on SOECA's pedestrian safety committee.

Dale Drive and Colesville Rd. Mark Gabriele gave an update on the proposed widening of Dale Drive at Colesville Rd., a \$3.495 million dollar project that was opposed by the MNCPPC Planning Board after testimony given several months ago by SOECA and other civics' representatives. The civic associations had urged study of resignalization to improve traffic flows. However, the County issued an executive order to begin construction, but will have a hearing on January 13, 2009 at 3 pm in Rockville to hear additional testimony. A motion was submitted that SOECA oppose the County's executive order to begin widening Dale Drive at Colesville. The motion was passed unanimously. A SOECA representative will testify on SOECA's behalf at the January 13 hearing.

Purple Line. SOECA VP Jonathan Jay gave an update on the Purple Line decisionmaking process. He noted that SOECA officials testified in person and in writing on behalf of our association reflecting the vote against an at grade Purple Line on Wayne Ave. The State is accepting written comments until January 14, 2009. On January 8, 2009, the County Planning Board will have a short meeting to make three decisions: 1) build or no build; 2) mode of transit; 3) route PL will take. The Board will then make a recommendation to the Montgomery County Council. On January 22, 2009, the Council Transportation Committee will meet to make a recommendation to the Council. On January 29, the full County Council will meet to decide on the recommendation they will send to the Governor. The Governor will choose build, mode and route between February and March 2009, and then present the state's proposal to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for funding. The FTA will select projects later in 2009, and possibly provide funding for half the cost of the PL.

Jonathan noted that when the authorities decide on the Purple Line route, it will be added to the County Master Plan and trigger reopening sector plans for re-zoning before any funds are approved or appropriated. Jonathan also noted that even though the State Planning Department dismissed the under-Wayne tunnelling option, they have recently asked MTA to run figures for a "hybrid" model, mixing and matching at grade and tunnel routes. Some tunnel options end up being similar in cost effectiveness as at-grade light rail options. The Planning Department has also recommended removing the station initially proposed for Wayne and Dale Dr. The AA/DEIS (Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement <http://www.purplelinemd.com/aadeis>) does not mention any adverse impact the PL might have on downtown Silver Spring traffic. After some discussion, Charles Wolff suggested that the various factions in SOECA advocating for different PL routes could reach agreement

if the MTA and others agreed on a hybrid option that satisfied more stakeholders.

Absentee Voting. SOECA considered a motion to remove the association's prohibition against absentee voting. The Executive Board of SOECA presented its unanimous opinion that the prohibition should stand. Members present discussed pros and cons of absentee ballots. Roberts Rules of Order advises organizations don't typically allow absentee ballots. Neither Montgomery County Civic Federation nor individual civics are known to allow absentee ballots. SOECA members should benefit from the information released during live debate before casting their vote on an issue. The SOECA Executive Board will make every effort possible to transport members to meetings for important votes. Proponents of absentee ballots want to ensure full SOECA member representation when voting on issues. After discussion, a motion passed to table the proposal to repeal absentee ballot prohibition.

Minutes from Oct 28 2008 Meeting: There were three amendments proposed to the minutes for the October 28 2008: 1) change "notes" designation to "minutes"; 2) correct the spelling of Charles Wolff's surname; and 3) correct acronym "DDSP" to "DTSS" for Downtown Silver Spring. All present unanimously approved the corrections.

Treasurer's Report for December 4, 2008: Checking account balance \$5,399.96. Certificate of Deposit balance: \$2,205.55.

New Business/Announcements/Discussion:

- The Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board plans to co-sponsor a Crime Summit with Prezco and other organizations in late April or early May. The summit will involve local police, the Neighborhood Watch program, and other participants. SOECA needs to appoint an individual point of contact and decide how they will participate. Anyone SOECA member interested in participating should contact Jonathan Jay.
- Montgomery County Civic Federation hosted Montgomery County Planning Board Chair Royce Hanson at the Dec 8, 2008 meeting. He spoke on growth management. MCCF's January program is on historic preservation, Jan 12, 2009 (<http://www.montgomerycivic.org/>).
- On a related note, it was mentioned that preservationists are suing the county to save the Suntrust (Perpetual) Bank Building on Georgia Ave in Downtown Silver Spring from the wrecking ball.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 pm.

SOECA'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

There have been numerous reports on the SOECA Listserv and those in surrounding neighborhoods of people breaking into cars, particularly late at night. **In the event you see something suspicious, please call the Montgomery Police non-emergency line at (301) 279-8000.**

And since you're thinking that it's a good idea to do that, the Board would like to suggest that you consider participating in SOECA's neighborhood watch program. Please volunteer as a Watch Captain, and help keep our neighborhood safe. For more info, contact Scott Lasensky at 301-920-2205, or via email to slasensky@gmail.com.

HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

There are two ways to join the SOECA Listserv:

(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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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>
