



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us --

Tuesday, October 28th,
2008
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

Purple Line Updates
Change to bylaws
Public Safety Updates

Business Meeting:

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

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele
301-565-339
1st Vice President:
Kathleen Samiy
2nd Vice President:
Jonathan Jay
Secretary:
Jean Cavanaugh
Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385

*** October Meeting Program ***

SOECA Business on many topics:

- Purple Line Update – AA/DEIS released, schedule set
- Proposed change to SOECA Bylaws
- Pedestrian Safety & Crime Updates

When: Tuesday, October 28th, at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

December 4th, January 15th, February 26th, April 2nd,
and May 14th

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.

(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.)

Meeting Minutes, September 23, 2008

Program: The meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:40 pm. Before the meeting officially began, there was a brief discussion about newsletter format. Although paper versions continue to be delivered, SOECA residents preferring electronic newsletters can contact Mark Gabriele.

Pedestrian Safety. After the meeting was called to order, VP Kathleen Samiy talked about a pedestrian safety initiative and particular points of concern to SOECA. These points include: speeding on Dale Drive (County Councilwoman Valerie Ervin held a recent meeting; speed cameras are inappropriate for Dale because of the hills); the Dale-Colesville intersection widening project (Dept of Public Works and Transportation is proceeding as originally planned, dismissing light re-synchronization testimony and proposals to which the County Planning Board agreed); Ike Leggett is proposing a county road code and we have until Sept. 30 to respond (SOECA could bundle traffic calming ideas including where we need crosswalks and hand signals into one letter). SOECA member Jonathan Jay represents SOECA at Prezco and talked about their campaign to publicize Walk to School Day on Oct. 8. SOECA has 25 signs to place in strategic locations within our borders. Residents discussed a few pedestrian safety and traffic calming ideas and linkages. Anyone in the community who wants to join SOECA's Pedestrian Safety Committee, please contact Kathleen Samiy.

Public Safety. SOECA member Chris Love attended a September 8 Prezco meeting on Public Safety, attended by Sgt Mark Yaniga of the Third District County Police. All civic associations in the region reported more cars and homes burglarized in recent months. Prezco will distribute information on avoiding being a victim of crime and might sponsor a crime prevention summit with local authorities. In our region in Silver Spring, car break ins are the worst problem. Often cars are left open and things are stolen from inside. Please remember the first response to a crime should be calling 911, according to Sgt Yaniga. The County allocates budget by reviewing statistics from 911. Another public safety issue is reckless driving, including by school buses, on Dale Drive.

The group discussed the poor lighting in Ellsworth Park, but Sgt Yaniga said that is not considered a crime problem, rather a nuisance issue. Officer Joy Patil is following the lighting issue. A SOECA member suggested that you can call in broken street lights by getting the street light pole number from its plaque and calling a County Office listed on their website, or registering the complaint on the website. Regarding rowdy crowds in Silver Spring, police need to be notified immediately of specific incidents. The Majestic Theater does pay for overtime salaries of security personnel.

Purple Line Update. SOECA Purple Line Task Force lead Kathy Fitzgerald reviewed the time line of near term Purple Line decisions. The county will issue a 1,300 page (report and appendices) Environmental Impact Statement around Oct 10 followed by a 90 day comment period with four public hearings. Mark Gabriele noted that the comment period extends beyond the decision making period. SOECA passed a resolution during last year's session that supports a Purple Line that is not at grade along Wayne Ave. SOECA distributed a fact sheet with details that explains why the Purple Line, in its current preferred design, is not a good plan. There was lively discussion on this issue.

Miscellaneous. The county is soliciting input on Fenton Village development. Mark Gabriele will find out more on behalf of SOECA. There is a series of Library Design Charettes (Note: the third one will be held Oct 21 at the Long Branch Community Center, 6:30 to 9:00 pm.) The Charettes are progressive but all are invited.

Minutes: All present approved the minutes for the May 15, 2008 meeting.

Treasurer's report for 09/23/08: Checking account balance: \$5,950.47; Certificate of Deposit balance: \$2,202.55.

New Business: SOECA Bylaws: During the next meeting, SOECA will discuss a proposal to amend the bylaws to allow absentee voting. Charles Wolf noted the Montgomery County Civic Federation does not allow absentee voting.

SOECA Social Event: Member Chris Love will investigate options for pulling SOECA members together for a social event.

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. A report on the program will be provided at the upcoming SOECA meeting, and also distributed by email.

Minutes of the SOECA Neighborhood Watch meeting –held– Sept 18, 2008

- Scott Lasensky chaired meeting
- 20 residents total
- Officer Mark Yaniga from the 3rd District attended

Minutes:

Lasensky reviewed goals and activities of the program

Agreement to distribute updated info material to residents via block captains (Lasensky will prepare) Officer Yaniga briefed group on recent crime trends (incl. rash of car break-ins). He encourages his officers (on the evening shift) “to get into the neighborhoods” and not just criss-cross using main streets—he also emphasized that the “first response” by residents should always be to call 911, never hesitate to call-in suspicious activity or any criminal-related concern. Calling 911 also has an impact on Police funding, as they use 911 stats for budget purposes

General discussion about reckless driving, speeding, especially on Dale Drive, between Wayne Avenue and Colesville Road.

Other Concerns raised:

Ellsworth park – residents are anxious, particularly due to poor lighting on street, though Officer Yaniga said the park is not a high-crime problem—that said, he noted the anxiety and concerns of residents, given that groups seem to congregate there after dark; and it was agreed the Watch committee would follow up with Officer Joy Patil about making sure the proper local authority fixes

the street lights adjacent to the park. (Yaniga responded to a proposal to add flood lights to the park, saying it’s been considered before, but always rejected since park lights might become a further attraction.)

Recent home break-ins – police are investigating, no determination yet re: possible pattern. Residents asked for additional policy “drive-throughs” on side streets during mid-day, when most break-ins occur.

Rowdy crowds on Ellsworth/Fenton, especially on weekends. Little the police can do without specific complaints or unless they specifically hear or see something. So please report anything that is deemed to be unacceptable behavior and get the police on duty down there involved as they have a large presence on weekend nights. (FYI, part of the force deployed there on the weekends are overtime staff, with costs covered by the Majestic.)

Ideas/Proposals/Follow-up:

- Neighborhood Watch outreach at downtown SS events, like Farmer’s Market and music festivals
- Additional NW signs, including at Rowen Road and Colesville
- Dale Drive speeding, including school buses – use of mobile police unit, more policing, calming devices (TBD) (Yaniga promised to recommend more attention, especially re: buses in early morning hours)
- Initiating a NW volunteer patrol (Susan Kyle) – we will ask Officer Patil for guidelines/instructions for starting an active community patrol program.
- Ellsworth Streetlights @ Ellsworth Park – must get fixed, have malfunctioned for more than a year – will ask Officer Patil for contacts
- Attendees requested copies of the updated NW roster (Lasensky will prepare)

Proposed change to wording of SOECA bylaws in regard to absentee voting

What follows is the proposed revision to the SOECA bylaws that would allow absentee voting on certain matters. This proposed change will be discussed at the upcoming SOECA meeting.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Any resident in the Association area, having attained 18 years of age, shall be eligible for membership, subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) Current dues must be paid before the resident is deemed to be a member.

(2) Residents of large apartment buildings or condominiums (more than four (4) units) may not be members.

Members are eligible to vote on Association matters subject to the following restrictions:

- (1) They must be physically present when the vote is taken, except that the Association may decide at a regular or special meeting to conduct the vote on any particular future matter by allowing otherwise eligible members to vote by absentee ballot.
- (2) Their dues must have been paid.
- (3) No more than two (2) votes are allowed from any residence.

If the Association decides that voting by absentee ballot will be permitted on a particular matter, the absentee voting shall be governed by the following provisions. Supplemental provisions, as needed, may be adopted by the Association at a regular or special meeting.

- (1) Any member eligible to vote on Association matters may vote by absentee ballot, without regard to the reason the member wants to vote absentee.
- (2) A member shall request an absentee ballot by submitting a signed written request to the appropriate individual, duly designated by the Association to conduct absentee voting, prior to the deadline specified by the Association.
- (3) After an absentee ballot request is submitted, the member's eligibility to vote shall be verified.
- (4) If it is determined that the member requesting an absentee ballot is eligible to vote, that individual shall promptly be provided with an absentee ballot. The paper absentee ballot shall be designed in such a manner that the Association is able to determine the individual who submitted the ballot and maintain the secrecy of the ballot. The Association also may allow for casting an absentee ballot using e-mail or other appropriate electronic transmission.
- (5) The Association shall specify a deadline for receipt of absentee ballots.

TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SOECA

<p>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</p>
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Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

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