



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

**** May 14 Meeting Program ****

**Join Us --
Last Meeting Before
Summer Break**

Thursday, May 14th,
2009
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

-Election: SOECA Officers
-Bylaw Modification?
-Rain Gardens
-Dale Drive Ped Safety
-Silver Spring Safety
Summit

Business Meeting:

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

TOPICS:

- **Election: SOECA Officers**
- **Old Business: Bylaw Modification:
Expand Membership Eligibility?**
- **Rain Gardens: Friends of Sligo Creek**
- **Update: Dale Drive Pedestrian
Improvements**
- **Update: Silver Spring Safety Summit**

When: Thursday, May 14th, at 7:30 p.m.

*Upcoming meetings: Next meeting will take place on
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009. Have a safe and
enjoyable summer!*

**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!*

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele
301-565-3395

Vice Presidents:
Kathleen Samiy
Jonathan Jay

Secretary:
Jean Cavanaugh

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385

SOECA Meeting Minutes April 2, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:42 p.m.

Keeping Downtown Silver Spring Friendly. A panel of community, business and county representatives discussed events during a “Stop the Violence” concert in DTSS March 7 sponsored by Mixed Unity, and answered questions from meeting participants. The panel included our Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin; Corey, Deputy Commander of the 3rd District Police Station Lieutenant Paul Liquorie; Jennifer Nettles, DTSS manager for PFA Silver Spring, Inc (Peterson, Foulger, Pratt and Argo Investments also called “Peterson”); Dwayne Jenkins, Silver Spring Regional Services Center; Richard Jaeggi, director of Ghandi Brigade and liaison with Mixed Unity.

Ms. Ervin noted the many calls and e-mails she received expressing great concern from the community about the Mixed Unity concert events. She notified County Executive Ike Leggett and discussed with him the future of the DTSS shared space. Even though the County is facing a half billion dollar budget deficit this year, they will pay attention to how they deploy police officers in DTSS as safety is the County's number one priority. Valerie and others talked about the lack of places for young people to congregate, but how all must share the public space DTSS offers. With that shared space should come respect and a certain decorum, all issues being discussed by stakeholders including all present at the table.

Lt Liquorie hears many concerns about DTSS especially on weekends. DTSS is a magnet for kids from all over the county, as well as DC and PG County. It has one of the few movie venues aside from Union Station. Lt. Liquorie explained that the one go-go band at the March 7 “Stop the Violence” concert had a large local following. With the viral nature of cellphone communication, the March 7 concert crowd unexpectedly swelled to about 7,000. The police will be more vigilant in the future researching the bands that play in DTSS. Montgomery County police do provide educational services to high schools on good behavior.

Ms. Nettles listed the areas of DTSS that she manages. They include most retail shops (from Whole Foods to the Majestic and restaurants along Fenton) but excludes City Place which is managed by another company. Ms. Nettles reviewed Peterson's responsibilities to keep the area clean and to be good stewards of the public-private partnership they have with the County. Ms. Nettles was active in post-March 7 concert discussions and did read all SOECA listserv comments apparently provided by a SOECA member (Ms. Nettles was not on our listserv yet). Ms. Nettles announced that Peterson, in its efforts to serve the community better, will not hold concerts after 8:30 pm; will work with sound engineers to reduce decibel levels during pre-concert warmup and during

concerts. Peterson must respect First Amendment rights, and with that in mind, will continue to encourage their staff to know the people who patronize public areas of DTSS; advise on behavior when necessary. Peterson is committed to offering family friendly events from bake sales to art displays. Ms. Nettles will announce events through the SOECA listserv and encourages feedback from the community (jnettlles@petersoncos.com).

Mr. Jenkins, from Silver Spring RSC, described their role as eyes and ears for County Executive. They participate in planning for events around Silver Spring.

Mr. Jaeggi apologized on behalf of Mixed Unity for the violence that occurred during the “Stop the Violence” concert on March 7. They didn't predict the violence, but Mixed Unity youth participants banded together during the chaotic last minutes of the event to help control and calm the crowd. Mixed Unity is planning other programs to promote their peace philosophies and recognize the shared nature of DTSS and the need for the community to feel safe, yet welcome youth.

Participants asked about ensuring safety at future events. Ms. Nettles responded that Peterson is increasing security; Lt. Liquorie said they need overtime authorized to provide additional personnel. Participants asked about gang activity during the concert and in general in DTSS. Lt. Liquorie responded that his force is trained to recognize gang activity and there is no one gang dominate in DTSS. MCP will ensure DTSS does not become gang turf. Lt. Liquorie also noted that it is not illegal to be a gang member. But police are trained to watch for signs that might signal trouble. Police have also trained Peterson staff. Ms. Ervin noted that go-go bands can attract gang members due to the interactive “shout out” component of the music. In addition to shouting out names of neighborhoods, this particular go-go band has been known to shout out names of gangs which serves to attract a gang following. A youth member of Mixed Unity reminded attendees that one of the goals of the concert was to change the mind of people who practice violence, like gang members. Participants voiced concern for crowd control during events. Lt. Liquorie listed many options for controlling crowds, all of which can be employed at future events if a large crowd is expected. Some attendees expressed concern for the crowds that might be attracted to Fillmore Concert Hall (Live Nation) events. Lt. Liquorie ensured us that they will monitor the events and research potential for violence, as they do now with certain movies that show at the Majestic.

A SOECA member collected recommendations from listserv discussions on the March 7 concert. Those suggestions for improving quality of life in DTSS and providing outlets for youth are listed on the following page.

Dale Drive Improvements. On Saturday April 25 at 1 pm, there will be a walk down Dale Dr. between Colesville and Wayne to discuss traffic calming improvements offered by the County. Khursheed Bilgrami, traffic engineer for DPWT, will lead the walk.

Dale Drive/Colesville Rd. Intersection “Improvements”. The County approved the widening of Dale Drive at Mrs. K's. This is a multi-million dollar project opposed by SOECA. SOECA had proposed re-signalization. Ben Stutz, aide to Valerie Ervin, will follow up on whether the state or county is responsible for re-signalization.

Q&A with Valerie Ervin. Q: What is the status of the Old Blair Auditorium project?

A: Ms. Ervin explained the challenges the Auditorium plan has faced including number of seats allowed; parking limits; multipurpose use nature of space. Now, there is an architectural firm that is creating a vision for the Auditorium which they will take to the Council CIP in Fall 2009 to request funding.

Q: Is the County raising meter fees in DTSS?

A: Meter fees may not rise but meter use might expand to weekends. Garage fees will rise.

Q: Where can we get change for meters?

A: The County is moving to a unified meter system where coins may not be needed.

Q: When will Veterans Plaza be completed?

A: Phase One of Veterans Plaza will be completed in early 2010.

Q: What's happening with City Place?

A: Ms. Ervin is meeting with City Place owners to discuss a new concept they are creating. City Place owners plan to build an office tower on top of City Place.

Safe Silver Spring Summit. The Safe Silver Spring Summit will be held May 16 at Montgomery College's Black Fox Theater. SOECA is a sponsor and two of our neighbors are helping to coordinate the program. There will be a series of seminars and panels with experts on safety and security issues. There will be seven workshops on safe and civil public spaces, gangs, youth, policing, neighborhood watch programs, Central Business District, and residential neighborhoods. Everyone is encouraged to attend. A motion was made to contribute \$250 on the Safe Silver Spring Summit. The motion was approved by all present.

See http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_details.asp?PrID=5498

Membership changes. Discussion of a proposal to change SOECA bylaws to expand membership to include members of multifamily housing units was postponed until next meeting.

Procedural. The minutes from the February 26 meeting were approved. The Treasurer sent out 105 membership reminders and 41 responded and are paid to date. There are 22 additional SOECA members since December.

Announcement. The Executive Committee has agreed to serve another term. Any other SOECA members in good standing who wish to run for a position on the Executive Committee should submit their name to Nominating Committee Chair Carolyn Michell, ccmichell@comcast.net

Safe Silver Spring Summit, May 16 2009. The Safe Silver Spring Summit will take place on Saturday, May 16 at Montgomery College - Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus (<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/maps/tpcamp.html>). SOECA is involved in the organizing of the summit with other nearby Silver Spring civic associations, community groups and government agencies, and Sharon Lynch and Vicki Warren of SOECA are helping to coordinate the program. The summit evolved from concerns expressed by residents in SOECA and surrounding neighborhoods over the last year or two. The Summit is being convened by Prezco, The President's Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations; the Silver Spring Citizen's Advisory Board; and others. The Summit's mission is to develop strategies, partnerships and goals to keep Silver Spring a community where people can live, work, travel, shop and play safely. The Summit is designed to:

- Give you the facts about types of crime, frequency, locations, etc.
- Bring in experts, both local and national to discuss safety strategies.
- Give a voice to residents of SOECA and surrounding neighborhood associations (PREZCO) to initiate action planning of various sorts, from crime deterrence to community building efforts.
- Bring together residents with other community leaders, business leaders, and public officials to that action planning steps can turned into concrete actions.

It would be good to have a strong turnout and have our voices heard, but more important, to begin action planning to take positive steps, large and small to keep Silver Spring, our community, safe and civil. For those interested in crime deterrence, there will be substantive workshops. For those interested in civility, supporting our youth, and building community, there

will be a place for those concerns and your ideas for improvements will be carried forward. Each workshop session has substantial time allocated for hearing and recording your ideas for change and improvement. You will not just to "talked at". Facilitators will collect and collate the ideas, and the follow-up will be an action plan.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND A MORNING OR AFTERNOON SESSION. YOUTH ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.

To register, send an email to SafeSilverSpring@gmail.com or call 301-431-4185 ext 212

Addendum: RECOMMENDATIONS to enhance quality of life in DTSS
(a compilation of community suggestions in reaction to March 7 violence)

- **Curfew by 10:00 p.m. for any minor adolescents not accompanied by adults.** Hold parents accountable for their children's whereabouts.
- **Majestic Theatre: primary draw for youth in downtown Silver Spring.**
 - better cost incentives for youth to attend early matinees
 - enforce age restrictions for R-rated films
 - restrict violent films being shown. Control programming for films like "Last House On The Left".

Does Peterson Management have contract with MC? If yes, MC should hold Peterson Management accountable for quality of day-to-day operations through performance "renewal clauses" in their contract.

- **Replicate Howard County's "Choose Civility" campaign, an ongoing community-wide initiative. See <http://www.choosecivility.org/>**
Reference: Choosing Civility: The Twenty-five Rules of Considerate Conduct by P.M. Forni, founder of the Johns Hopkins Civility initiative, and the inspiration for Howard County's Choose Civility Project.
- **Beyond concerts in the Urban District targeted to teens, implement long-term goals that can be started by teens and their leaders today:**

--Old Blair Auditorium on Wayne Avenue. Construct a 'concert hall for teens': Teens can lead this project, with community mentors, and political, and contractor guidance. Our kids volunteer for Habit for Humanity in Louisiana, why not take on the Old Blair Auditorium as a non-violent renovation project. When the project is complete, name it after Tai Lam, and host non-violent, parent chaperoned (no mall managers, mall security, no police) concerts at this wonderful venue, in their own Middle School.

--Old Silver Spring Library, on Colesville Road. Library should be developed into Residential Community Center, it too can host teen events. Now is the time for parents and teens in our community to envision the use of this property for our community. This building, and its surrounding park and grounds would make an excellent community center, and year round rec center. Our teens can help us parents envision the project, and set the proposal before the county planning, and political leadership before the hi-rise, or infill developers get their hands on it.

--Sidewalks, crosswalks, and bikepaths and safe speeds, for safety:

Let our teens take on with their parents a proposal for school boundaries, that allows our children to walk and bike to school, connecting each of us through communities safely, while lessening cars and buses traversing our neighborhood streets. Let bike paths, and pedestrian paths lead us and connect us through nature, along natural paths to our parks, and into downtown.

SOECA Officer Elections: The following candidate biographies, all incumbent, were presented by the nominating committee:

President: Mark Gabriele: A resident of Seven Oaks for the past nine years, he is the incumbent president of SOECA and, prior to that, was SOECA vice president. He serves on the Board of a child welfare non-profit based here in Silver Spring, and works in the field of public policy development.

Vice President: Kathleen Samiy: She represents the third generation of her family to reside in SOECA, where members of her family have lived since 1935. In her professional career, she worked as a museum art director and design director. She has done volunteer work: for many organizations including the Friends of Sligo Creek, and most recently served as Chair of the SOECA Purple Line Task Force.

Second Vice President: Jonathan Jay. Jonathan has lived on Woodside Parkway for 17 years. He served as Vice President of SOECA from 1996 to 1999; is SOECA's delegate to Prezco, the association of inside-the-beltway Silver Spring civic associations; and has been active in a number of community issues. He often can be seen fast walking through the neighborhood.

Secretary: Jean Cavanaugh. Jean has lived on Worth Avenue with her family for 10 years and served as co-Vice President of SOECA 2002-3. She is a Foreign Service Officer and recently returned from a tour in Argentina. Jean was active in pedestrian safety issues.

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert: Bill Kaupert and his wife Ruth bought their Silver Spring home in 1968. Mr. Kaupert is retired from a 34-year career as a secondary level English and ESL teacher with the DC Public Schools. When Bill and Ruth moved into their home, they found a SOECA membership form in the mailbox. When he responded, he was captured and recruited by the officers. Bill has served as Vice President in the 1960's, two terms as President in the 1970's, and two more terms in the 1980's. Bill has been a delegate to the Allied Civic Group and the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF).

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.

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 *(please circle one)*