

SOECA MEETING MINUTES: November 17th, 2020

* Remote Meeting via Zoom *

Prepared by Claire Zietz, Secretary

35 in attendance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The current account balance is \$10,765.00. A few additional membership checks are still coming in. Expenses from this past month were for the printing of newsletters and flyers.

COMMITTEE REPORT: CHRISTINE DUNATHAN – DOWNTOWN PLAN COMMITTEE

This new committee was formed this past month after the last SOECA meeting and have met a few times. The purpose of this committee is to monitor the DTSS and Adjacent Communities Planning Process and keep the neighborhood informed of updates and developments.

The plan area does include a portion of SOECA. You can find a copy of the latest notice at the back of SOECA's last newsletter, which can be found here: <https://soeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SOECA-Newsletter-Nov-2020-Email.pdf>

The planning committee will evaluate and make recommendations about zoning, transportation, community facilities, and infrastructure.

It is important that our neighborhood voices are heard during this process (which could be 2-3 years). Now through the end of December is the "listening" portion of the plan, followed by recommendations in Spring 2021. A working draft will be developed in the Fall of 2021.

Fall/Winter 2021-2022 will consist of planning and working sessions, and finally a formal plan adoption is to take place in the Fall of 2022.

Make your voices known by participating in the survey found here:

surveymonkey.com/r/sslistening

For further information, visit the Downtown Plan website:

montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/downcounty/silver-spring/silver-spring-downtown-plan

There are a two upcoming online presentations currently scheduled for December 8th at 5:30pm and December 14th at 7:30pm. See the above link for more information and updates. All are encouraged to take advantage.

To join the SOECA committee, email Kristen Conte at kcl.conte@gmail.com .

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Chris Reynolds reminded the group of changes going on to the Old Library site. SOECA is looking for new people to step up and follow the progress there, by signing on to be a part of and/or lead that SOECA committee. Traffic and pedestrian safety are some of the

concerns. Members Bonnie Curl and Betsy Mendelsohn signed up to help. If anyone else would like to sign up, please contact Chris Reynolds at urban.economist@gmail.com.

Mr. Reynolds also announced that SOECA is looking for a head of the Social Committee and any virtual social meeting ideas. Please contact him with any interest.

COMMITTEE REPORT: BETSY MENDELSON - NEIGHBOR'S HELP

Betsy Mendelsohn, Tina Guina, and Michael Gurwitz started this committee back in March to provide assistance to anyone who might need it (such as during “unnecessary travel” restrictions during this pandemic, anyone in a high risk group, etc). More than 30 people signed up to volunteer, but only a small amount asked for help.

Ms. Mendelsohn has spoken to Tim Havilland of Prezco to see what other groups were doing. Some have adopted an Eldercare home, performed street (social distanced) performances, and more. She did try to contact Seabury, but did not hear back.

This group is still offering help with anything from grocery or prescription pickup, to snow shoveling, dog walking, a daily or weekly call to people who live alone as a check in, and more. If you are interested in either joining the committee or would like to use their assistance, please email soecanh@gmail.com.

Michael Gurwitz suggested he would send out an email about this initiative via listserv.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jean Cavanaugh, as part of the Traffic Committee, announced that this evening is the first CAT meeting for our neighborhood and Erin Johannsen, who represents our neighborhood, is attending. The state is breaking up with the P3 partner and taking over some of the contracts to keep part of the work going. More information will follow in the next newsletter.
- Ms. Cavanaugh also wanted to note that the county is still creating temporary “greenways” and you can apply online to have your street closed to local traffic only: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/sharedstreets/>
- Also to note, the Beltway expansion hearing period closed last week. A number of organizations are opposed to the P3 arrangement to the expansion, and in the Spring the state will start accepting bids.
- Ms. Mendelsohn mentioned a notice about an upcoming meeting for the bikeway on Fenton at the 410 intersection and greenway at Grove Street. More information can be found on the project webpage here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/fentonvillage/index.html>
- Ms. Dunathan mentioned that there can be rather large amounts of stormwater runoff during rains. The county helps communities like ours by paying for personal stormwater retention/reduction grants, which a few people in the neighborhood have used. More information on the RainScape program can be found here: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes/index.html>

- Mr. Reynolds wanted to mention that this is the last SOECA meeting of the year. The January meeting is TBD. For all meetings next year, the Board is looking for speakers and topics. If you have any suggestions, please contact Mr. Reynolds or the SOECA Board.

There being no further business, Mr. Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 8pm.