



# SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

## \* October 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting Program \*

### Join Us --

Thursday, Oct. 29th, 2009  
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

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

### AGENDA

**Old Business:** Rain Gardens  
**Updates:** Dale Drive  
Chelsea School

### Business Meeting:

Approval of the Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Announcements  
Old Business: Reports  
New Business  
Adjourn by 9:00 p.m.

### Topic:

## DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING UPDATE

Presented by Reemberto Rodriguez  
Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- **Old Business:**
  - Rain Gardens
- **Updates:**
  - Colesville / Dale Drive Intersection
  - Chelsea School

**When: Thursday, October 29th, at 7:30 p.m.**

*Next meeting: Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>*

This newsletter comes to both late, and via electronic means only. Sorry about that – some of the executive board members have been dealing with flu-like symptoms in themselves and their families, and couldn't get this newsletter produced in time for the distribution network to have a reasonable delivery window. We intend to have a paper copy for the early home delivery for the December meeting. So, NO, we're not going to electronic-only distribution – but please, PLEASE tell your neighbors about the meeting, since they might not otherwise know.

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

Vice Presidents:  
Kathleen Samiy  
Jonathan Jay

Secretary:  
Jean Cavanaugh

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert  
301-585-3385

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

Visit [www.soeca.org](http://www.soeca.org)

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

## SOECA Meeting Minutes September 22, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:40 p.m.

Rain Gardens – SOECA will return to the community to see if there is interest in rain gardens. FOSC rain garden experts will consult and advise for groups of at least ten neighbors.

SOECA Listserv Membership Policy. This topic was tabled from the May meeting to the September meeting. Jonathan Bernstein and Mark Gabriele are listserv moderators. Mark explained the process of joining the listserv. Listserv applicants submit to Jonathan and Mark their name and email address. They are not asked further questions. Membership currently includes people from neighboring civics, Downtown Silver Spring business representatives, and a Gazette reporter, all of whom have an interest in what SOECA members are discussing. SOECA members had raised concerns about having non-SOECA people on the listserv. After discussion where no one opposed non-SOECA members joining the listserv, there was a motion to table the issue. It was unanimously approved.

Redistricting Sligo Creek Elementary School. Christopher Lage, a concerned neighbor and parent, described the redistricting process SCES is undergoing as the Board of Education attempts to balance student populations at public schools in the area. The Board had decided East Silver Spring Elementary School will become a K-5 school. The Board wants to increase student populations at ESS and Takoma Park ES. A County Boundary Advisory Committee formed and established criteria for keeping communities together, allowing for diversity and encouraging walking to school. There are several options on the table, but Christopher Lage urged SOECA members to support a resolution "...to ensure enrollment level of a 210 student population; at least 2 classes per grade, etc." at SCES. If SCES shrinks too much, they may end up with very large class sizes (if only enough students for one class per grade); no teacher assistants; no differentiation in instruction level; no higher level math; unpredictable staffing requirements; and other consequences.

[Do you want say anything about school becoming too small to support special programs, such as the French immersion?]

[I suggest deleting working with Prezco and other associations.]

*Note: The superintendent released his recommendation October 15 2009:*

[http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/TakPK\\_BAC\\_Superintendents\\_Recommendation\\_1.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/pdf/TakPK_BAC_Superintendents_Recommendation_1.pdf)

Dale Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements. SOECA member Bruce Altevogt has been working with County Department of Transportation on pedestrian safety improvements and traffic calming measures for Dale Drive. Small improvements originally planned for this past summer were postponed in favor of using larger funds available through the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) fund to make more effective improvements as noted in the September newsletter. Construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2010.

Purple Line Update: Mark Gabriele gave the update. The Governor announced what is called the Locally Preferred Alternative for PL, including the segment above ground from the Silver Spring Transit Center (Metro station) to Wayne Avenue and Manchester Place, between Sligo Creek Parkway and Flower Ave. This route is being submitted to Federal Transit Administration for its approval and federal funding. In mid September, MTA issued a "white paper" on the merits of a light rail station at Dale Drive and Wayne Avenue. MTA proposed this station earlier in the process; much of the community and the County Planning Board agreed there was no need for a Dale PL station; it was

deleted from the County's recommendation of the Locally Preferred Alternative, except that MTA persuaded the County that the Purple Line would be designed in such a way that a Dale Drive station could be put in later if desired.

The MTA white paper recommends a change: definitely building a Dale Drive station and doing so with the rest of the construction of the PL, rather than deciding after constructing the PL to add a station at Dale. The SOECA board is concerned about implications of this station on schools and the impact on zoning, as well as this proposed divergence from what had previously been decided. The County has favored "transit-oriented development," and often allocates special preferences to high density development projects within a certain distance of fixed mass transit facilities. Such preferences can be granted prior to a transit station being built once it has been planned. Moreover, the Wayne Avenue entrance to the large parking lot of the elementary and middle schools at Dale will be closed, with that school traffic being rerouted to Dale and neighborhood streets behind the school.

Dale Drive-Colesville Widening: There will be a site visit with MTA representative on October 1 to review the plans for widening Dale Drive by Mrs. K's Tollhouse Restaurant. This widening project will cost \$2.5 million. Our councilwoman Valerie Ervin voted for the widening. SOECA has asked the County to study lane changes and re signalization. *See report on site visit below.*

Procedural: Those present unanimously approved the minutes from the May 13, 2009 minutes.

Treasurers report: The current balance in the checking account is \$5,285.49. The Certificate of Deposit value is \$2,220.19, interest rate .25% with maturity November 22, 2009. No new members have joined SOECA since the May 14 2009 meeting.

New Business: Chelsea School is up for sale. Head of School Tony Messina will be invited to next meeting.

New Silver Spring library: Elizabeth Conklin reported that the newest library designs are appealing and interesting. The design and additional information on the new library will be unveiled at noon on Saturday, October 24 by County Executive Isiah Leggett and Montgomery County Public Libraries Director Parker Hamilton at the Silver Spring Library book sale. The new library will house one of two County special libraries for the disabled and handicapped. A pedestrian bridge, in current designs, will be a safe way to get into library. The library will be located on the third through fifth floors of the new building on the corner of Fenton and Wayne. The Purple Line, in its current configuration, will run through the middle of the new library site.

Aesthetics at Ellsworth and Franklin Gate Entrance to SOECA. Sarah Brown expressed concern that the garden surrounding the white stone gates is no longer maintained. SOECA has, in the past, given grants for gate repairs and landscaping. Now the area needs plants and gardening care. Is anyone willing to take this on as a project? Those present suggested inviting students to garden and earning student service hours. The site might also be appropriate for a FOOSC rain garden. A local landscape architect might also take the project on.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

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Field Meeting: Dale Drive-Colesville Road Intersection Widening. County DOT representative Dan Sheridan met with SOECA board, SOECA members, neighbors, owner of Mrs. K's and a

representative from the Silver Spring Regional Service Center to review plans for widening Dale Drive at Colesville Rd to facilitate traffic flow. This project is labeled CIP #508716. Dan Sheridan prepared the following meeting minutes

The following issues were presented at the field meeting.

- The crosswalks at the intersection of Dale Drive and Colesville Road are located farther back from the corner than the current condition. The concern is that cars will not be looking for pedestrians that far from the corner and could actually make the situation less safe. The Division of Transportation Engineering (DTE) will investigate the location of the proposed crosswalks.
- The radius at the northeast corner of the intersection of Dale Drive and Colesville Road is larger than the other corners at the intersection. The concern is that the larger radius will encourage drivers to not slow down sufficiently or not stop. The situation could be dangerous for pedestrians. DTE will investigate the proposed configuration and determine the appropriate radius.
- After the proposed signal and intersection improvement is implemented, will there be a “No Right Turn on Red” sign on westbound Dale Drive? If not, can this be considered in order to make a safer intersection for pedestrian crossings? DTE will investigate with the County’s traffic operations engineer.
- The existing storm drain system that runs from the parking lot area adjacent to Mrs. K’s restaurant to Sligo Creek has created sinkholes in the past. Currently another sinkhole has been reported behind a house on Kingsbury. DTE will investigate within the County maintenance to determine what the extent of the damage is and what needs to be done to correct the problem.
- The owner of Mrs. K’s Restaurant does not like the proposed location of the retaining wall at the end of the parking lot. The concern is that there is not sufficient room to drop off restaurant customers and then turn around to get out of the drop off area. DTE agreed to set up a meeting to discuss operational issues associated with closing the existing access to Colesville Road.

SOECA and neighbors also noted that if the County closes the Tollhouse Road access to Colesville Rd., restaurant delivery trucks will not be able to enter into the driveway to deliver goods, as there is no turnaround space after Dale Drive widening. There is the danger they will be idling and maneuvering on the residential streets behind Mrs. K's. Besides contributing noise and exhaust pollution, these trucks could be a danger to pedestrians and children.

Notice: County Executive Ike Leggett will hold a Town Hall Meeting at 7:30 on November 12 at Takoma Middle School. Please attend.

## 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)*

## HOW TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:

There are two ways to join the SOECA Listserve:

### (1) Via email

- Send an e-mail to: [soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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
- 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](mailto:soeca@egroups.com) or [soeca@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca@yahoogroups.com)