



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

Join Us --

Thursday, April 2nd,
2009
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.,

LOCATION: Silver
Spring Branch,
Montgomery County
Public Library

AGENDA

- Down Town Silver
Spring Events
- Dale Drive
- Expanding SOECA
membership

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
301-588-0409
Treasurer: Bill Kaupert
301-585-3385

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

- **Keeping Downtown Silver Spring
Friendly: Representatives from
Peterson Company, Mixed Unity,
and Silver Spring Regional
Service Center - plus County
Council Rep. Valerie Ervin***
- **Dale Drive Update**
- **Expanding SOECA membership**

When: Thursday, April 2nd, at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming meetings:

April 2nd and May 14th

* Councilmember Ervin's schedule is subject to change due to County Council meetings that may be called.

**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!*

SOECA Meeting Minutes February 26, 2009

Program: Meeting was called to order by Mark Gabriele at 7:37 PM.

Dale Drive Traffic Calming Initiative: Khursheed Bilgrami traffic Engineer, DPWT Division of Operations Traffic Engineering & Operations discussed coming improvements to SOECA's section of Dale Drive between Colesville Road and Wayne Ave. The changes are slated to begin Summer 2009 and will hopefully calm traffic and increase pedestrian safety on this road.

The County completed the first phase of this traffic calming initiative on the Woodside Park section of Dale Dr. between Georgia Ave. and Colesville Rd. Improvements include bump outs to make the road appear narrower, an island near Georgia with paddle signs warning drivers to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, and various crosswalks. There is also a speed camera warning sign.

The second phase began with an assessment of speed on different parts of Dale Dr. The study showed that at Dartmouth, 85% of the vehicles were traveling at 33mph. This is probably due to the geometry of the road at this point. At Ellsworth, 85% of the vehicles traveled at 40mph. The community requested crosswalks at various intersections along Dale Dr.

DOT is considering pedestrian crosswalks at Ellsworth, Pershing, Greenbriar and Dartmouth for SOECA section of Dale. At Dartmouth, the County proposes changing the geometry of the road to help slow cars in advance of the crosswalk, including using "nick downs" or "chokers. These changes slow traffic down and reduce the width of road the pedestrian needs to cross. If the plan goes forward, the DOT engineers have included a lot of signage in the plan to warn motorists of crosswalks. Mr. Bilgrami said the bus stop near the Dale Dr. intersection with Ellsworth would be moved to the corner closer to Colesville going west.

SOECA members in attendance discussed use of speed tables to slow traffic; flashing lights to warn of crosswalks; and the possibility of monitory speed with mobile cameras, a program the Third District Police could provide. Mr. Bilgrami said the County does not use speed humps for arterial roads, and they will do their first speed table project on Lockwood Ave. in White Oaks soon.

SOECA members also asked about plans for the Wayne to Piney Branch section of Dale. Mr. Bilgrami said if the residents would like traffic calming improvements, he would look into it. SOECA will request the Traffic Service expand their traffic calming analysis to include Dale Dr. from Wayne Ave. to Bonifant Rd. SOECA will seek consensus from East Silver Spring and Park Hills civic associations for further study.

Silver Spring Library. Elizabeth Conklin, who sits on the Silver Spring Library Advisory Committee, gave an update on the project's progress. The County has purchased all land for the new library to be located on the corner of Fenton St. and Wayne Ave. The massing plans show the library facing Wayne Ave. Although the project is planned to include apartments and street level retail, the library construction will begin first. The library will be located on the third through fifth floors of the building. First two floors will house Pyramid Atlantic and retail.

The library will be 63,000 square feet, about five times larger than its current size. It will include more books, 30 computers, meeting and study rooms, materials and equipment for disabled people, serving the eastern side of the county.

There is some controversy surrounding access to the library via a pedestrian bridge from the garage across the street. The council launched a public amendment process to the 1999 Silver Spring Urban Renewal Plan, which prohibits pedestrian bridges above certain streets in downtown Silver Spring. There is a website for the Silver Spring library project:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/libtmpl.asp?url=/content/libraries/buildings/ssproject.asp>

Purple Line update. Jonathan Jay gave an update on PL progress. The County Council unanimously voted on January 27 for the medium investment light rail option for the Purple Line, which includes the surface route through downtown Silver Spring and along Wayne Avenue. Governor O'Malley will make the final decision on the State's recommendation to the Federal Transit Administration before the close of April.

The Council supported removing the proposed station at Dale Dr. and Wayne Ave., but voted to recommend that the Purple Line be designed at Dale so as to preserve the option of possibly putting a stop there in the future. If it is designed for the

possibility of a future stop at Dale, then that could mean that the extensive widening of Wayne Avenue that would occur at Dale Drive for a station would still occur, since it is necessary that the tracks diverge for the station. MTA's engineering drawings indicate that the widening for a stop at Dale would include approximately 625 feet immediately east of Dale – the first more than 400 feet being to a width of just over 70 feet, and over the next 200 feet tapering back to about 48 feet. The current width of Wayne just east of Dale is about 48 feet or just less.

The Council also voted to recommend that a tunnel from the Silver Spring Transit Center through downtown and under Wayne to the area of Mansfield Road be studied more thoroughly prior to the Governor's final selection of the Locally Preferred Alternative. Jonathan Jay noted that it is not clear that there would be any serious study since MTA has continued to insist that it is opposed to a tunnel and the Council, has voted to recommend that the surface route be built. SOECA had asked that the Council consider recommending that both the surface route and tunneled route be forwarded to the Federal Transit Administration and proceed to Preliminary Engineering so that the pros and cons of both routes could be studied more carefully. SOECA's concern, as presented in public testimony, is that MTA has not adequately detailed and explained to decision-makers the adverse impacts of the surface route on Wayne and through the downtown – including widening of nearly two-thirds of the just more than one mile of Wayne on which the surface route will run. SOECA is still urging the Governor to select the tunnel option under the downtown and Wayne Ave. or send both routes forward. The PL timeline presently shows construction of the project starting as early as the summer of 2012 and being completed three to five years later.

Procedural. The Minutes from the January 15 2009 meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance in the checking account is \$5,464.58. The certificate of deposit value is \$2,216.06. Bill Kaupert suggests moving the CD to an 18 month CD to increase the interest received. There were no new households joining SOECA since the January 15 2009 meeting.

Announcements: There will be a public hearing on March 24, 2009 regarding several Ride-On bus route changes. The meeting starts at 6:30 PM and will be held at 101 Monroe St., Rockville. You can find the proposed list at their website: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tsvtmpl.asp?url=/content/DOT/transit/current_events.asp

Old Business: The County will widen Dale Drive on the east side of Colesville in spite of community, council, and Planning Commission opposition.

New Business: A SOECA member requested the board review the association by laws that rule out membership by multi-unit properties. Multi-unit properties are defined as those with more than four units.

SOECA moved to spend up to \$100 on Earth Day events, including materials needed to stencil anti-dump signs on sewer tops and other activities. Kathleen Samiy recommends SOECA members to partner with Friends of Sligo Creek to engage in activities to mark Earth Day. FOSC offers activities including removing ivy and other invasive plants under an expert's supervision; cleaning the creek and park; and labeling stormwater drains with the Sligo Creek Watershed stencil. See <http://www.fosc.org>

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.
Minutes submitted by Jean Cavanaugh, Secretary

EARTH DAY, April 22

AROBOR DAY, April 25

In honor of both Earth Day and Arbor Day SOECA is initiating Earth Month in SOECA. We wish to encourage residents to participate in environmental events such as these:

Join Friends of Sligo Creek, join, or participate in one of their Sweep the Creek or Earth Day events: <http://www.fosc.org>

Stencil SOECA storm drains. SOECA is offering a \$100 financial stipend for materials expenses, to any group, team or member that is interested in 'stenciling' stormdrains in our boundaries. We encourage teens, youth groups, boy or girl scouts. Stencil, we hope to be provided. Work should be done in the month of April 2009.

Plant a tree day(s) We encourage everyone to plant a tree, in your yard, or near a location that has much road water run-off, or along a busy street -- so the street will one day be lined with trees. We encourage plant a tree day to be on a common days as

we 'show and express' this collective effort, recommended days to plant a tree: Sunday April 19, or Sunday April 26th.

Remove invasive Vines: If your yard has a large, mature old growth tree that is a full canopy of leave, and a trunk of invasive vines, we encourage you to remove the vines. These vines can freeze in winter, and ultimately can harm and weaken the tree. The invasive seeds are spread by birds and bring more invasive vines that blanket and drape our native trees. Keeping the vines off the trees, keeps the tree strong and standing for years to come.

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 Listserve:

(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 |
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| 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 |
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