



# SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

**SOECA and Friends of Sligo Creek Sweep the Creek!**  
**Saturday, April 17, 9-11 a.m. (www.fosc.org)**

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**Join Us --**

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Tues. April 20, 2010**  
**7:30 – 9:00 p.m.,**  
**at the**  
**Silver Spring Library**

#### **AGENDA**

- Update: Silver Spring Library – Pedestrian Bridge Across Wayne
- SS Library parcel: Vote on SOECA Resolution concerning use
- Sale and Development of Chelsea School property

#### **Business Meeting:**

- Old Business:
  - Approval of Minutes
  - Treasurers Report
  - New Business
- Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

#### **Future SOECA Meetings:**

- Wednesday, May 26
- Break and resume  
September 2010

#### **SOECA Officers**

President: Mark Gabriele  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Kathleen Samiy  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Jonathan Jay  
Treasurer: Bill Kaupert  
Secretary: Jean Cavanaugh  
[SOECA\\_board@gmail.com](mailto:SOECA_board@gmail.com)

### **SOECA NEEDS OFFICERS**

Are you looking for a way to help improve your community, meet lots of civic-minded people, and become a Silver Spring insider? You're in luck – your community needs you to help out. SOECA Officer Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for SOECA officers (President, two Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer). Community votes at May 26 meeting. Contact retiring SOECA VP Jonathan Jay, 301-565-3831 or [soeca\\_board@gmail.com](mailto:soeca_board@gmail.com)

### **Chelsea School to Develop Property**

The SOECA Board recently learned that Chelsea School is selling the school property and working with EYA Developers on a plan to construct townhouses on their property. EYA is the developer for the National Park Seminary townhome project near Walter Reed annex. They will present their concept at the April 20 meeting.

### **TWO WAYS TO JOIN SOECA'S LISTSERV:**

#### **(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 Listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address by response email, adding you after you respond.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups."

#### **(2) Via Yahoo Groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (if you already have or set up)**

- 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. Click on "Join."
- The Listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address by a personal response email adding you after you respond.
- You will then receive a confirmation e-mail from "Yahoo Groups."

Post messages to the community by sending an e-mail to:

[soeca@egroups.com](mailto:soeca@egroups.com) or [soeca@yahoogroups.com](mailto:soeca@yahoogroups.com)

## SOECA Minutes March 4, 2010

President Mark Gabriele called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM.

**New SOECA Officer Nomination.** The President announced that officers of SOECA for the next term of office will be elected at the May 26 meeting. He indicated that both he and Jonathan Jay (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President) are retiring as SOECA officers. Volunteers were asked for the nominating committee. Cathy Hilton-Russo and Jonathan Jay volunteered. The President will ask others in addition and the committee will select its chair. Those interested in serving the association as officers in the coming year should indicate to the nominating committee or to the President their interest in being considered.

**SS Library Parcel.** Dave Friedman, a member, presented his proposal for use of the overflow parking lot of the Silver Spring Library when the new Library at Fenton and Bonifant is completed in 2011 or 2012. The overflow parking lot is between the main Library parking lot (the one directly behind the Library) and Ellsworth Urban Park, and, in fact, is a separate parcel from the parcel which contains both the Library and the main parking lot. Friedman believes that the parcel for the auxiliary parking should become part of the Park, thereby adding green space on Ellsworth and increasing the green space in our community. That green space could be used for activities such as pickup sports and kite flying. He stated that the Library's main parking lot, which is the one directly behind the Library, could be reconfigured so as to compensate for much of the parking that would be lost by the overflow lot becoming green space.

Comments from others on the proposal included the following:

- Such green space could be used for community gardens.
- Would the existing building remain or would a new one of some sort be built?
- The Director of the Silver Spring Regional Services Center indicated at a meeting of representatives of Silver Spring civic associations in recent weeks

that no decision has yet been made regarding use of the current Library site and that one possibility if the County retains the site is to use the building for an inter-generational community building, focusing on teens and seniors.

- SOECA's action on the proposal might be premature in that it would be helpful to know of possible uses being considered for the Library site since some uses might require the extra parking lot.
- Even if we don't know what might be the future use of the current (old) Library site, it is not unreasonable for SOECA to go on record as wanting a larger Ellsworth Park, which would include what is now the overflow parking lot.
- It is not premature to take action, since the County usually makes its proposals regarding land use without presenting all the options first. It is better to speak up and make the community's wishes known to our officials early in the process prior to the announcement of a proposal that the County government has already sunk its teeth into and become attached to.

The President indicated that he thought we should discuss at SOECA's next meeting a resolution deeding over the parcel of the overflow parking lot to the Park when the Library is vacated.

**Purple Line.** Mark Gabriele said he had hoped to have a discussion on the Purple Line, but that he is waiting to hear back from Henry Kay, Deputy Administrator of Planning and Engineering for MTA on information SOECA had requested about the Purple Line.

**Live Nation/ Fillmore.** Mark attended a community meeting on Live Nation/ Fillmore on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Live Nation/ Fillmore will be located in the old JC Penney storefront. As part of the deal with the County to bring Live Nation to Silver Spring, adjacent to the site there will also be a new 12 story hotel with 125 rooms and a 12 story office building (the bottom four floors of which will be parking), both of which would be built anytime within the next 15 years.

The Fillmore itself will be two stories, have four bars, and will serve no food. It is designed as a standing-room-only, general admission concert hall. It will have a maximum standing capacity of 2,000. Seats can be added on the main floor, on an as-needed basis, and with seats, the maximum capacity is 750 people. The upper floor can't accommodate seats.

At a SS community meeting to discuss the Fillmore on 2/23, Mark Gabriele raised concerns about where people will go when they leave a show – how will so many people leaving the Fillmore at the same time be accommodated on the sidewalk and street. Others at the meeting raised concerns about the size of the crowds, security, and where concert goers will park since no new parking will be built for the Fillmore, and the parking to be built for the office building won't be available to Fillmore patrons. Some who had attended concerts at the 9:30 Club in DC, also run by Live Nation, said that entering and leaving shows is not chaotic, and that Live Nation employees and bouncers know how to manage crowds. They also noted that at the 9:30 Club, alcohol is not served during the final hour of a concert.

Several people at the meeting suggested that we identify our concerns and raise them with the County and Fillmore management. Mark Gabriele asked SOECA residents to email him ([SOECA\\_board@gmail.com](mailto:SOECA_board@gmail.com)) their concerns, or post them on the SOECA listserv, and Mark will follow up.

At a recent meeting of Prezco (federation of inside-the-Beltway Silver Spring civic associations), SOECA VP Jonathan Jay raised with the Director of the Silver Spring Regional Center Reemberto Rodriguez three issues that could directly impact our neighborhoods once the Fillmore opens: 1) security/ crime; 2) parking; and 3) traffic. Jonathan said Reemberto Rodriguez agreed to arrange a meeting within four to six weeks between representatives of Silver Spring civic associations and representatives from the Fillmore and the County to further discuss these community concerns and prevent problems.

The Fillmore is set to open in September 2011.

### **Pedestrian Safety Update**

SOECA VP Kathleen Samiy said that Darian Unger from the **SS Citizens Advisory Board** has brought people from the State DOT to look at the traffic circle at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Colesville Road. The State is going to install signalized lights at the circle. There will also be streetscaping – lighting, crosswalk, and sidewalks -- along the DC line to the intersection of Colesville Road and Georgia Avenue, to be installed in Spring 2010.

### **First Baptist**

There will be two buildings constructed on this property to replace the church and houses (part of the church) that exist now: a new church and, on the side nearest to Fenton and running for about half the parcel between Wayne and Bonifant, a five to six-story residential building with retail on the first floor. The developers are open to consideration of modifications, and community representatives have been speaking with them. Issues raised by the community include: massing of the building on Bonifant (short setback from the street, six floors, 66 to 70 feet), parking, traffic, loading dock off Bonifant, will public space be adequate, and how will the all-glass design of the building fit in with Fenton Village?

### **Business meeting**

Bill Kaupert reported that SOECA has \$5,180 in its checking account. As of 2/28, we had \$2,265 in our CD, earning .1% interest, maturing on 3/21/10. Three new households have joined SOECA, and there have been 30 renewals since 1/14.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

**SOECA and Friends of Sligo Creek Sweep the Creek:** SOECA will participate in FOSC sponsored creek cleanup on **Saturday April 17**. Please meet in parking lot across from 9511 Sligo Creek Parkway **between 9 and 11**. FOSC provides gloves and bags. Students earn service credit and we help the environment and celebrate Earth Day. Dress to work in brush and water by wearing long-sleeved shirt, pants, and waterproof boots if you have them. There is no need to sign up ahead of time.

**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)*

*If yes, please print email address here:* \_\_\_\_\_

