



SEVEN OAKS –EVANSWOOD CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

of Silver Spring, Maryland

PURPLE LINE TASK FORCE UPDATE

MEETING

Wednesday, September 26, 2007
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
At the Silver Spring Library

AGENDA

Business Meeting:

Approval of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Election of Officers
Old Business: Reports
New Business

Report of the SOECA Purple Line Task Force

Adjourn by 9:30 p.m.

OFFICERS

President: Mark Gabriele

Vice President:
Jennifer Hollander

Vice President/Secretary:
Ann Johnson

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Tuesday, October 30th
Thursday, December 6th
Thursday, January 17th
Thursday, February 28th

The next SOECA meeting will feature a presentation by the task force of volunteer neighborhood residents. We hope to present as much as possible of what we have learned so that SOECA residents are informed. Come hear what has been learned to date.

Become engaged in this project: The presentation will be an overview of critical concerns, and an update on the impacts of the "Purple Line" in our community, on Wayne Avenue, our neighborhood "Main Street." This is a very important transportation project. No matter your point of view, (maybe you already think you know what it is---please come check your assumptions, they may or may not be correct.) State, County and Political decisions about the Purple Line will impact our neighborhood for generations to come. This meeting is an opportunity to understand the facts, and learn about many complexities and impacts, of this project.

Whichever alignment is chosen through residential Silver Spring -- either Wayne Avenue or the Thayer-Silver Spring Avenue alignment -- would in part or altogether be the only segment in the entire system that runs above-ground on a residential street if light rail is built.

Clearly life along Wayne Avenue would be impacted, if indeed State and County transportation officials, and our elected politicians, select the Wayne Avenue route. There are many key unknowns. Up until about May 2008, the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) will continue its forecasting and studies, with much of the initial planning completed by then, and after that, the ongoing State and County reviews will quicken, leading up to picking the link that meets variable and selected criteria.

Areas of factual interest or concern that we we hope to address at the meeting include:

Upcoming public focus groups, clarification of terminology, size of vehicles, electrical supply, platforms and stops, segments underground and segments aboveground, widths on Wayne, speed of the vehicles, crosswalks, dedicated lanes, turning lanes, widening Wayne in some places and loss of property, Green Trail bikepath and sidewalks, parking restrictions, portals, environmental impacts: trees, Sligo Creek, stormwater, landscaping ridership, travel time, possible stops in the business district and on Wayne Avenue, capital costs to build the system, spillover traffic in SOECA neighborhoods including the potential impact of increased surrounding street traffic in the future, who would operate the system, the route through downtown and through the intersection of Wayne and Fenton, maintenance, ticket system and cost to ride, ridership models and forecasting studies., etc

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Meeting Minutes: May 17, 2007

Also need biographies of officer candidates

Meeting program topic: The Purple Line and its proposed Wayne Avenue alignment. Speakers: Joe Romanowski and Harriett Levine, contactors to MTA.

The meeting began with a presentation describing the status of and options for the Purple Line. At present, one option is to not build the Purple Line at all – the comprehensive impact assessment and cost/benefit analysis must indicate that it's worthwhile to build it, or the project will not be constructed. When completed, the Purple Line will span approximately 14 miles and could cost anywhere in the range of \$350 million to 1.3 billion, depending upon specific routing, whether the line is bus rapid transit, light rail, underground, above ground, or some combination thereof. When it is competing for funding, the system is evaluated, in part, on the basis of a ratio of system cost to user benefit. A system that has too high a ratio would not receive any Federal matching funds.

There are multiple alignments proposed for the Purple Line through this area. The alignment with greatest impact on our neighborhood is an above ground, at-grade route along Wayne Avenue north of Cedar (south of Cedar, plans call for tunneling beneath the downtown area). Colesville Road is no longer under consideration. Maps of the proposed alignments can be found online at: http://www.purplelinemd.com/linked_files/cfg_maps/ - our area is addressed by the map group called "East Silver Spring".

The Purple Line project was delayed for a year, but studies and analysis are being conducted in earnest and final assessments and reports are expected to be delivered by spring of 2008. These will include environmental impact studies, ridership evaluations, and geological testing.

Business meeting:

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were approved with a revision to state "Schuyler Road" in the last line.

A motion was made to delay the election of officers of the Association until the September meeting; that motion was carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report: Checking account balance as of April 30th, 2007: \$5153.56

Certificate of deposit: \$2,147. There were two new member households.

The Association moved to discuss establishing a SOECA Purple Line Task Force, the purpose of which would be to investigate all aspects of the Purple Line and to report back to the Association with their findings. A vote was taken, and by a majority, a task force was established, and Kathleen Samiy was appointed to Chair that effort.

Mary Reardon, of the Silver Spring Historical Society, asked the Association to lobby the Montgomery County Planning Board on behalf of establishing historical building status for the Falkland Chase apartments, a unique apartment complex surrounding the intersection of East/West Highway and 16th Street. The Association voted its support.

There being no further business, the meeting then adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

SOECA Officer Elections:

The nominating committee has presented a slate of nominees for the Executive Committee of the Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizens' Association. The nominees are:

President: Mark Gabriele

A resident of Seven Oaks for the past seven 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: A resident of SOECA for 15 years and the third generation in her family living on Bennington and Ellsworth Drives. She has been an active member of the Friends of Sligo Creek, from 2005-present, served as a Board Member, Children's Hospital, Child Health Center Board, from 2000-2006, and is currently the Chair of the SOECA Purple Line Task Force.

Vice President / Secretary: Ann Johnson: Ann served as the Secretary of SOECA last year, and the many compliments received about the newsletter were due directly to her tremendous contributions of time and energy.

Treasurer: Bill Kaupert: Bill has served SOECA many different roles, including as president. His tremendous experience and great patience make him an indispensable asset to the Board.

Our thanks to the nominating committee for their work.

Our Community and Crime

A 12-year old hit on the head and has his cell phone stolen....a bike taken off the back porch...a citizen being hit unconscious and having his wallet stolen...a teenager coming home from school to find the front door has been broken down and his home robbed...these events are becoming common in our neighborhood.

What can we do to combat this trend? SOECA is working with the local police force to try to effectively join forces and combat crime. **YOU** can help:

Call the non-emergency number if you see suspicious people or activities. Program this number into your cell phone so you can call quickly, from anywhere: **301-279-8000**

OBVIOUS THINGS TO WATCH FOR:

Anything that seems even slightly "out of place" or is occurring at an unusual time of day or night, could be criminal activity. Some of the most obvious activities to watch for and report include:

- ◆ A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied.
- ◆ A scream heard anywhere could mean robbery or assault.
- ◆ Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left in the car.
- ◆ A sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, burglary or vandalism.
- ◆ Persons loitering around schools, parks and secluded areas.
- ◆ Persons loitering in the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.

Call 911 in the event of an emergency or if you see a crime being committed. Do not worry about "bothering" police or being called a "nosy neighbor", but instead think about what could happen if you do not act.

The formula Montgomery County uses to determine # of police officers per jurisdiction is based upon # of calls received per service area.

This includes 911 and non-emergency calls.

To report graffiti call **301-607-4733**.

Get to know your neighbors. Share information about work schedules, vacation plans, types of vehicles belonging to their households, etc.

Become involved. SOECA has organized a Neighborhood Watch program. Many of us have become block captains and are working together to develop strategies to prevent crime. Collectively we can make progress. Contact Elaine Ellis (301-565-0040) if you would like to help. If criminals know that we are not easy targets, they will be more likely to avoid our neighborhood.

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Al Little Memorial

Al Little was a loving friend and neighbor to many of us in Silver Spring. One of his passions was nature. As many of you know, one of his last projects was to work to preserve open green space. Al felt strongly that our parks should be enjoyed by everyone. In his memory, family and friends would like to donate a bench in Sligo Creek Park. The bench would be inscribed to Al but would be enjoyed by all who come to spend time with nature. You can see an example of a recent bench that was installed at the corner of Sligo Creek Parkway and University Boulevard or by going pointing your Web browser at:

<http://www.montgomeryparksfnd.org/pn.htm>

We hope to raise the \$1500 for the bench and bronze plaque in time for a dedication ceremony in October or November. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, you can send a donation to the Montgomery Parks Foundation, 6910 Greentree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817. Make sure that you specify that the contribution is to go to the "Al Little Fund". You can also contribute by using a credit card by calling the Foundation at 301-767-0002 and speaking with Taylor Martin. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Henderson Mark Holzle Moira Little

HOW TO JOIN SOECA LISTSERV:

- (1) Send an e-mail to: soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word “subscribe” in the subject line.
- (2) You will then receive an e-mail reply at your inbox from “Yahoo Groups”.
- (3) Click on “Reply” and then “Send” to return confirmation of your desire to join.
- (4) You can post a message to the community by sending an e-mail to: soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL:

Send an email message to soeca.newsletter@gmail.com requesting electronic delivery. You’ll still get the paper copy, but you’ll always get the electronic edition as soon as it’s available.

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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 (optional): _____ | | | |
| Want newsletters sent to your email? | YES | NO | (Please circle) |