

Situated in the green hills & valleys of Sligo Creek & its tributaries, abutting the burgeoning downtown Silver Spring

Seven Oaks Evanswood



CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Next meeting: TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 7:30 pm, SILVER SPRING INT'L MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Election of officers for 2015-16

The main topic of this meeting is the election of officers for 2015-16. Most of the current officers are stepping down after several years of service. Our nominating committee, Carolyn Michell and Jonathan Bernstein, has assembled the following slate of candidates for the coming year.

- President: **Jonathan Shurberg**, an attorney, has lived on Hamilton Ave. since 2002 and has been active in state and local politics on such issues as marriage equality and the death penalty repeal.
- First Vice President: **Rachel Bowers**, an electrical engineer, has lived in Silver Spring since 1996 and in the neighborhood since 2000, and has an adorable 1 year old miniature schnauzer named Grimm Edward..
- Second Vice President: **Tina Guina**, a scientist at NIH, is originally from Split on the Adriatic coast of Croatia and has lived in the U.S. since 1992. She lives on Woodside Parkway with her family and dog Coco.
- Secretary: **Tom Armstrong** (incumbent), an astronomer, has lived on Greenbrier Dr. for 22 years, has been a block captain for nearly as long, and has been Secretary for the past three years.
- Treasurer: **David Hartmann** has been a SOECA resident for nearly 40 years and has been a Neighborhood Watch coordinator. He has tutored high school students in math for many years, and is retired from the MITRE Corporation.

Purple Line Update (from Anne Edwards)

Anne Edwards leads a group of representatives from four civic associations to optimize the installation of the Purple Line if it is built. She reports:

June 2015 Issue

Next meeting:
Tuesday, June 16
7:30 – 9:00 pm
Silver Spring International
Middle School Cafeteria

AGENDA

7:30 – 8:15: Bus Rapid Transit on
Colesville Rd update

PL update

New business

Treasurer's report

8:15 Election

Meet the new officers

In this issue:

Purple Line update

Water Watchdogs

Tree initiative

BRT advisory committee

SSCAB update

April 28 minutes

The new Silver Spring Library grand opening is June 20 at 11 am, corner of Wayne and Fenton.

The next Thursday evening contra dances at the Civic Building are on June 11 and July 9, 7:00 – 10:00. All dances are taught; come early for lessons. \$10 (FSGW members, \$8).

SOECA boundaries are: Colesville Rd on the west, Cedar and Fenton Streets, south, Bonifant and Wayne, east, and Franklin and Caroline Avenues, north.

www.soeca.org | email: soeca.board@gmail.com

The Purple Line "Investment Equity" petition of April, written by a member of a neighboring civic, collected an astounding 600-plus signatures in just few days and has caused some quickly scheduled follow up meetings at the County level. All other PL negotiating is on hold until the Governor indicates go or no-go. Both he and Secretary of Transportation Rahn are currently in Asia on a trade mission and they have said any PL decision would wait at least until they return. If the decision is yes, neighborhood advocates will go back to work pressing for these urgent fixes, none of which interrupt the Purple Line plans. Some of the fixes we need would save the project serious money:

- **Keep a four-lane Wayne Ave.** with the PL in two lanes, as Maryland promised, and especially eliminate the peril-filled plan to widen Wayne Ave. to eight paved lanes right at the schools at Dale Drive.
- Put that huge **power substation** in one of the more appropriate and available spaces *not* near any homes.
- **Include anti-noise designs** (which they have not yet done) because "wheel squeal" will be heard in your houses for 1000' on either side of the tracks.
- Redesign the current construction plan **to avoid defoliating Wayne** (this is no exaggeration) from Fenton to Mansfield for the next ten years.

All of these items can be fixed with design changes; some the "fixes" would save considerable money. This effort will need some active neighbors. Please let SOECA officers know if you can help at all.

Water Watchdogs

The Friends of Sligo Creek **Water WatchDogs** (WWD) citizen pollution reporting system, headed by Anne Vorce & Kathleen Samiy, monitors Sligo Creek and its tributaries for runoff events from sites throughout the SOECA neighborhoods and downtown. Anyone can use WWD to report problems to the Dept. of Permitting Services (DPS). If you see a runoff problem or other pollution, email WWD at **ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org**. It will be relayed directly to DPS. WWD recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to fund efforts to raise awareness WWD, to conduct workshops on water pollution identification, and to organize and promote a bike-athon to raise awareness of water quality for Sligo Creek and for the Anacostia River into which it drains.

Tree Canopy Initiative

The second planting phase of the tree program started a year ago by Sligo Creek Neighbors for a Sustainable Community, Inc. (SCNSCI) took place in late April, bringing the total to ~120 trees planted. Over 50 SOECA residents have participated. SCNSCI's objective is to restore the ongoing loss of our 'oaks & woods' primarily with large canopy trees. To sign up for next fall's planting, send your name, address, and phone number to sevenoaksevenswood@gmail.com and specify whether the tree(s) will go on private property (\$25 copay) or County right-of-way (ROW). (See the February newsletter at www.soeca.org/page1/newsletters.html for details.)

BRT Advisory Committee (Lori Zeller)

Lori Zeller represents SOECA on the County's Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) for Rt 29/Colesville Road South. She reports the following from the third CAC meeting on Tuesday, June 2. In May, the Council added funds to the Capital Improvement Program for an FY16 study of BRT on New Hampshire Ave. from White Oak to the DC border. This study will interface with the Colesville Rd. study because the corridors intersect. The team will keep the CAC and the public informed on that coordination. Consultants presented maps and data modeling future land use in the Colesville Rd. study area, showing how projected growth in population, jobs, and travel demand in DTSS and White Oak will add more people and more trips to our transportation network. They presented an analysis of the "no build" option on Rte. 29 now and in 2040. Congestion will only get worse by 2040, leading to increased emissions, slower speeds, longer commutes, loss of productivity due to longer commutes, and many other effects. As the study evolves, we will see models including BRT to show how well it can mitigate these effects.

The consultants also presented BRT running way options, which can be mixed and matched for different segments – a hot topic that we will revisit.

Everyone should look at the meeting slides. There's a link to them and previous materials at bit.ly/1JkFnao. Open House meetings are planned for the fall. Lori will give a brief presentation and answer questions at the upcoming SOECA meeting. You can also send her questions or provide feedback at

ZellerTransit@gmail.com.

Minutes of April 28 Meeting

The first topic was a discussion of the old Library building with Gabe Albornoz (Director, County Dept. of Recreation [hereafter, "Rec"]) and Mike Reilly (Director, M-NCPPC Parks Dept. ["Parks"]).

Mr. Albornoz told us that Rec and Parks produced a "Vision 2030" study calling for a full recreation center near downtown (see www.montgomeryparks.org/about/vision/), which is now in the long-term capital program. When the building became available, both agencies responded. Rec is interested in services for old folks to youth to families with toddlers.

Mr. Reilly said that Parks's interest was to acquire it as open space in a swap for County property in Wheaton. That swap is now off, so Parks is considering converting some of the parking lot to open space.

Several questions focused on program possibilities. Rec would survey the broad Silver Spring community, including residents and nonprofit organizations. Programs might include, e.g., tai chi, arts classes, or space for emerging nonprofits. Most such centers are on Park property for access to outdoor supervised play. Other questions arose over the acquisition process. If County Executive Leggett decides to transfer it to Rec and the Council concurs, Rec develops a cost estimate, and then it becomes a capital project, probably with implementation going by stages. Our guests like the idea of a charrette with the neighborhood to consider how the building should be used. The project should happen within maybe two years, since it is not hugely expensive: the building is already there, and the recreation center has strong public support. A final question topic was the proposed dog park in Ellsworth Park. It will be located close to Colesville Rd., and construction should start in a few months. A ground cover surface hasn't been chosen yet.

The second topic was a proposed change to Article IV(2) of the SOECA bylaws to read, "SOECA membership is limited to residents of the R-60 zoned areas inside association boundaries." [The County upzoned the Chelsea Heights site in 2013 to allow 63 townhouses, which SOECA opposed.] President Jean Cavanaugh presented the Board's view on the amendment. Chelsea Heights residents, she said, will be required to join their homeowners' association (HOA), which will represent their interests. SOECA can collaborate with the HOA on issues of common interest, and Chelsea residents will be welcome to attend SOECA meetings, join the listserv, and read the newsletter. But when our interests diverge, Chelsea resi-

dents without this bylaw could be voting members of both organizations, but current SOECA members could not.

A "con" speaker said that there's no basis for thinking that the Chelsea residents will have differing interests, and that the developer pledged to honor the traffic plan. He felt that we should honor diversity and objected to saying which interests are acceptable.

A "pro" speaker cited pressure toward higher-density development and pointed out that the Chelsea residents will have the HOA to support their interests. A divergence of interests that may arise concerns the traffic plan designed to reduce traffic cutting through the neighborhood. The residents of Chelsea Heights, being close to the downtown edge of the neighborhood, may decide to get rid of those restrictions. (Two others later expressed concern on that point.) A "con" speaker said that the Chelsea residents would oppose commercial development. A "pro" speaker reiterated that the Chelsea residents would have an HOA, and said that coalitions to influence the County government work better if there are more groups.

A "con" speaker said that the HOA is not voluntary, unlike SOECA and that some proponents of the change want to go back to the sixties, and charged that, as with the Purple Line, they don't want "those people" coming in.

A "pro" speaker said that if we allow Chelsea residents to join, we should open membership to renters and condo owners to increase economic diversity.

A "con" said he didn't want to exclude anyone. A "con" speaker said that the proponents should recruit more detached-home members to SOECA if they're worried that the Chelsea residents will change SOECA's direction. Another said that the Chelsea residents would want traffic restrictions, and if there's a problem, we can talk about it in a year.

During the discussion, several questions came up, with the following answers. Chelsea Heights is the only townhouse development within SOECA. The 17 newer Woodside Pkwy. homes, zoned R60, have an HOA. The apartments at Cedar & Colesville are not within SOECA. Townhouses can be built on R60 zoning; it's known as "cluster housing." Citizens associations are voluntary, self-established; in the past, developers tried to establish them because they help sell houses.

The question was called and seconded. The secret-ballot vote was 17 "for" versus 32 "against" the proposed bylaw amendment. The amendment failed to reach the necessary 2/3 majority and did not pass.

Finally, the Treasurer's report shows that the checking account had a balance of \$4853.08 on April 28, and that one new household on Greenbrier Dr. had joined.

**Seven Oaks Evanswood
Citizens Association
Silver Spring, Maryland
www.soeca.org
SOECA officers**

Jean Cavanaugh, President

Kathleen Samiy, Past President

Michael Gurwitz, Vice President

Tom Armstrong, Secretary

Bill Kaupert, Treasurer

Resident volunteers

Jonathan Bernstein, Listserv &
web site manager, SSCAB rep

Anne Edwards, PL on Wayne cmtc

Lori Zeller, BRT Committee rep

Contact SOECA:

soeca.board@gmail.com

Two ways to join SOECA's listserv:

1) Via email:

- Send an email to soeca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
- The listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address and will add you after you respond.
- You will receive a confirmation email from "YahooGroups."

2) If you have a Yahoo Groups account:

- Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>, 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, and click on "Join."
- The listserv moderator will email you asking for your name and address and will add you after you respond.
- You will receive a confirmation email from Yahoo.

Once you have joined, post messages by sending email to soeca@egroups.com or soeca@yahoogroups.com.

SOECA membership 2015-16 Renew annual dues

Send this slip plus \$20 annual dues per household (\$10 for seniors and single members) to:

Bill Kaupert, SOECA Treasurer, 9222 Manchester Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com if:

- You want to receive the newsletter electronically, or
- You want to check the status of your membership.

If you want to join the listserv, see the instructions above.

Note: Resident email addresses, street addresses, and phone numbers are not shared.