



November 2017 Issue

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the Silver Spring International Middle School Media Center.

Upcoming SOECA Membership Meeting Dates and Presentations

Wednesday, November 8, 2017; 7-9pm at Silver Spring International Middle School--Greg Ossont of MC's Department of General Services presents on redevelopment of the former Silver Spring Library site. We will be voting on a position on the proposals at this meeting.

Saturday, January 13, 2018; 3-5pm at Silver Spring Library--Peter Campanides, Acting Assistant District Engineer for Traffic, MD Department of Transportation presents on major transportation projects and improvements currently underway and planned for our area.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018; 7-9pm at Silver Spring International Middle School--Landscape Design.

Wednesday, May 9, 2018; 7-9pm at Silver Spring International Middle School--Public Safety/Public Schools.

Help SOECA Form a Position on Redevelopment of Former Library Site At The November Meeting

Greg Ossont, Deputy Director of Montgomery County's Department of General Services, will be at our November 8th meeting to give an overview of two proposals the County is considering for redevelopment of the former Silver Spring Library and to answer your questions. County Executive Leggett will make a decision before the end of the year on which proposal to accept, so SOECA needs to **adopt a resolution** at the November. The issue isn't just which proposal to support, but also whether the land should be sold to the developer or leased by the County and, therefore, remain a taxpayer owned asset.

There are two finalists for the project. The Gudelsky Child Care Center would rehabilitate the current building, add a section on the back that is slightly higher than the current library, serve about 150 kids, and have community spaces. They would satisfy a requirement for housing for senior citizens by adding 15 affordable apartments in DTSS. Victory Housing would replace the existing building with a 4 or 5 story, 92-unit apartment building, and have a child care center for 80 to 100 kids in the lower level. They propose using Ellsworth Park as a playground for the center's children. You can review the presentations and proposals made by each finalist at this link:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs/opd/home.html>

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SOECA Officers

Michael Bufalini, President
Mike Kirby, 1st Vice President
Vacant, 2nd Vice President
David Hartmann, Treasurer
Kristen Conte, Secretary

Board Actions Since Last Membership Meeting

1. Joined 6 other Silver Spring-based civic associations in sending a letter to State and Local representatives about the need to set up Community Advisory Teams as soon as possible in areas affected by construction and operation of the Purple Line.
2. Sent letter to Three Oaks Townhome Association in support of their grant application for a storm water improvement and education project in the Sligo Creek watershed.

Agenda for November 8 Meeting

Approval of Sept. Meeting Minutes
Business Update:

- Treasurer's Report
- Purple Line

Announcements
Committee Reports
Redevelopment of Library Site

SOECA Boundaries

Colesville Road on the West;
Cedar and Fenton Streets on the South;
Bonifant Street and Wayne Avenue on the East;
Franklin and Caroline Avenues on the North.

A few years ago, SOECA adopted a resolution in favor of the County's original plan to use the site as an inter-generational recreational facility. Now that the County is headed in a different direction, we need to understand the County's plans and the process it will use to decide the best use of this important site in our neighborhood.

Please note that we will be voting on the position SOECA should take on this project at our January meeting.

Minutes of the September 13, 2017 Membership Meeting

The September 13th meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Michael Bufalini presided over a business session.

Agenda: The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 22, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Hartmann reported a balance of \$7,284 in the checking account. Expenses since May have been for meeting room rentals, newsletter production, and for the block party held in July. He noted that the block party cost SOECA \$503.56 with an additional \$510 covered by the raffle. Nine new neighbors have joined SOECA since May. Our annual membership drive begins in October with all homes receiving a flyer about joining SOECA.

Newsletter Distribution: Mr. Hartmann called for a show of hands to determine if newsletters were being distributed throughout SOECA's service area. It appears there are issues with some streets and Mr. Hartmann will work to correct the problems.

Purple Line (PL) Update: Mike Madden, PL Project Manager for Maryland DOT, provided written answers to questions given to him after the May 22 membership meeting. Mr. Bufalini has posted these answers to SOECA's website and distributed them via the listserv. Answers of note are:

1. There is a **24/7 hotline** for citizens to call with questions or concerns throughout the construction phase -- **240-424-5325**.
2. To help with traffic, the PL will use flaggers whenever there is a lane closure.

3. On street parking on Wayne Avenue will remain available throughout construction.

Concern was expressed by one neighbor about the process the PL used to add a station at Dale Drive. It appears statements made about neighborhood involvement in the decision to add the station were not honored. At this point there is nothing that can be done as the station is in the final plans for the PL.

Announcements:

1. There is a meeting about Bus Rapid Transit on Colesville Road scheduled for next Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm at the Civic Building.
2. There is a meeting in October (date still TBD) at which the finalists for redevelopment of the old Silver Spring Library site will be named. The proposals under consideration seem to still include both low- and higher-density projects. At a Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board meeting on September 11th County Executive Ike Leggett said there were no additional funds in the county budget for affordable housing and, therefore, the old Silver Spring Library site was the best option for providing low income housing.
3. SOECA's meeting dates for 2017-18 have been set. The meeting dates are listed in each newsletter.

Committee and Representative Reports:

1. Land Use - Chris Johansson has volunteered to chair SOECA's Land Use committee. He has a degree in urban planning and will be a wonderful addition to SOECA's leadership. If you are interested in serving on this committee, or any committee, send an email to soeca.board@gmail.com.
2. Safety - Lynn Bailes discussed his efforts to get the police liaison for our area to come to a SOECA meeting to discuss safety issues for our neighborhood.
3. Traffic - Kristen Conte reported on a meeting the Traffic Committee held with Khursheed Bilgrami, MC DOT Engineer. She noted that

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Jean Cavanaugh is preparing a letter to MC DOT about cut-through traffic and speeding on Dale, Wayne, Ellsworth, and Worth.

4. PL CAT - Michael Bufalini said that Beth Jewell has stepped down from serving as SOECA's PL Citizen Advisory Team representative. Neighbors interested in taking on this important role should contact the SOECA board at soeca.board@gmail.com.

Presentation by WSSC on Water Main Replacement on Colesville Road: Brandon Stewart, WSSC's Customer Advocate, and Curtis Pinder, WSSC's Contract Supervisor for the Colesville Road Water Main Replacement Project, joined the meeting to discuss the project which is now underway. WSSC is replacing 1.88 miles of water mains underneath Colesville Road from Georgia Avenue to the beltway. The project should be complete in the spring of 2019, weather permitting.

Mr. Pinder noted that all dates are preliminary as WSSC may encounter weather and other delays that will extend the project's timeline. WSSC will be replacing and relocating water mains along US 29/Colesville Road and water connections to intersecting streets.

Phase I: Started August 21, 2017 and projected to end in January 2019. Construction begins at Georgia Avenue and continues north to Sligo Creek Parkway. The new water main will be installed in the Southbound lanes of Colesville Road and will affect the curbside lane from Georgia Avenue through the downtown area. Past downtown, the new main will be in the 2nd or 3rd lane from there to the Beltway.

Phase II: Starting in July of 2018 and continuing through January 2019. Construction begins at Sligo Creek Parkway and proceeds to the beltway.

Phase III: Starting in January 2019 and continuing through May 2019. This phase involves pipelining the pipe at Sligo Creek Parkway.

Construction operating times are:

- Monday-Friday: 9:30 am-3:30 pm
- Weekends: 9am-9pm
- Evenings: 9pm-5am

Residents and businesses will get advance notice of weekend and evening work.

Access to homes and businesses will be maintained at all times.

There will be single and double-lane closures on both the north and southbound sides of Colesville Road during work hours. And parking restrictions will be in effect in construction zones during work hours.

WSSC will try to keep water shutoffs to a minimum. When a shutoff is necessary affected residents will be given written notice by use of a hangtag on their front door.

Mr. Pinder noted the following resources for residents:

- There is a website that will be updated throughout the project: www.wsscwater.com/Colesville.
- Customers will receive a notification 48 hours in advance of a service interruption that lasts more than 8 hours.
- Curtis Pinder, Technical Contract Supervisor, 301.206.7339, Curtis.Pinder@wsscwater.com
- Arun Patel, Systems Construction Inspector II, 240.508.3374, Arun.Patel@wsscwater.com
- Brandon Stewart, Customer Advocate, 301.642.1712, Brandon.Stewart@wsscwater.com

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

SOECA Membership Renewals

SOECA membership dues for the coming year were due in October. Please see the links on the SOECA website for membership forms and PayPal instructions or use the form on page 4 of this newsletter.

Colesville Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

The county released a report on the design of the BRT stations. The goal is for the sites to be sustainable and use plantings to manage storm water. You can review the report at this link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRT/Resources/Files/MWCOG-BRT-Report-July2017r.pdf>

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The closest BRT stops to our neighborhood are the one between Fenton and Spring/Cedar and the one near University Blvd.

during both construction and operation of the Purple Line.

Fun Environmental Fact

Anne Vorce asks “Did you know that a lot of eels are in Sligo Creek and that they migrate from the Atlantic?” Even if you're not an eel fan, you've got to be impressed by their journey.

Committee Chairs and Issue Representatives

- BRT Corridor Advisory Committee – Brian Fiet
- Education – Vacant
- Land Use – Chris Johansson
- Legislative – Vacant
- Membership – David Hartmann
- Montgomery County Civic Association – Jean Cavanaugh
- Nominating – Tina Guina
- Old Library Site – Steve Peck
- Safety Committee – Lynn Bailes
- SSCAB Representative – Jonathan Bernstein
- Social Committee– Leslie Hansley
- Technology – Jonathan Bernstein
- Traffic Committee – Jean Cavanaugh
- Purple Line CAT – Erin Johansson

SOECA’s Representative on the Purple Line’s Silver Spring Community Advisory Team (CAT)

We are so happy to report that Erin Johansson has agreed to serve as SOECA’s representative on the Silver Spring CAT for the Purple Line. Erin and her family live on Wayne Avenue, so she is well positioned to represent us

Join SOECA’s Listserv: Go to soeca.org and click the link on the home page to join.

Infrastructure Improvements and our Environment

Construction is happening all around our neighborhood and it feels like new projects are added to the mix daily. The work crews are required to protect Sligo Creek, so it does not become even more silted. Here's what the construction crews should be doing: putting a barrier in front of the nearest downhill storm drain; cleaning up dirt and debris from the road (but not with water); covering up their dirt/asphalt piles if they leave them in place after the workday or if rain is forecast. Please take a picture and report violations to ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org. Steve Martin and his team from the Department of Environmental Protection will respond to your report and work to make things right. Thank you.

SOECA Membership: Pay by Check or Paypal
Annual dues of \$20 per household or \$10 for seniors and single members

- **PayPal:** from the “About” drop-down menu at www.soeca.org, select “Join SOECA” and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.
- **Check:** make it payable to SOECA and send it with this form to: David Hartmann, SOECA Treasurer, 407 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Name: _____ Today’s Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

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