

**Park Hills Civic Association and SOECA Joint General Meeting
April 4, 2017 @ Silver Spring International Middle School Cafeteria
Minutes for Park Hills Civic Association**

Attendance

Quorum requirements were met.

Introductions

Motion to start the meeting made, seconded, approved

Motion to adopt the agenda made, seconded, approved

Motion to approve SOECA minutes made, seconded, approved

SOECA business update

Purple Line Update - Chris Richardson

DOT, under direction of County Exec, called re: Purple Line
Wayne Working Group meeting to be held Oct. 16 with county
addressing PL planning issues- 5 members include 4 SCES parents

Joan from Chris Van Hollen's office, state and county, PL, MTA and PL Partners
raised safety of widening to 7 lanes at intersection; discussed with engineers reducing size by 1-3 lanes

Chris R. offered to sell a 4 lane width to community knowing it would have trade-offs such as no parking
for pluses such as saving trees and grass, reducing stormwater impact

Thursday meeting is expected to address an engineering breakthrough brought up by Rob Padgett,
reduction by one lane and reduced pedestrian refuge on one side of street

No mitigation money in budget

Need for constructive agitation to get speed cameras turned on

Q and A:

Would need bottom-up message at this point to try to get project reduced to 4 lanes

Chris R. will write up summary after Thursday and put on listserv; asked county for help with
documentation

PHCA and SOECA will hold another joint meeting in May

It's the curb lane on north side of Wayne being eliminated

Unsure whether train and traffic sharing lane at intersection

Park Hills website has a Purple Line primer with visuals

Rt. 29 Bus Rapid Transit Meeting- Alan Bowser and Tina Slater

Non-profit Safe Silver Spring reorganized – per Alan.
Recruited larger board, elected new officers, planning for future.
Alan is now President and co-chair with Amy Cress Sabo and Woody Brosnan.

Quarterly meeting with police tomorrow 7 p.m. at police station – sounding board between community and police. Fear in the Age of Trump, strengthening bonds

BRT - Alan

Proposals for BRT on Colesville from Burtonsville to Transit Ctr, Viers Mill and 29
Insufficient space.

State hasn't answered how to schedule BRT every 7.5 minutes given traffic load.

County Exec was so gung ho, state stepped out, and county is going ahead - branded it FLASH.

Haven't done design work.

Usually don't know cost til 30% design, only at 10%.

Monthly meetings for foreseeable future, 1st was last night, to bring citizens in.

Tina –

Rt. 29 prioritized by MoCo for BRT because it's a business transit corridor, one of busiest in MD.

County applied for a Tiger Grant for design work and were awarded one from Federal gov't.

\$140 million is new cost upper limit, last meeting it was \$60 million upper limit.

Explanations for cost increase were not persuasive.

Montgomery County Civic Federation advanced proposal of free ride on at \$40 million cost; county not interested.

Last night learned no marked entry or speed.

BRT drivers will have some control over red lights.

In looking at stats, County claims the number of people going down the road will increase because more people will ride the bus than at present.

13,000 people est. to use BRT on 29.

Planners say none of the systems has a major increase in ridership/day or year

"a lot of smoke and mirrors."

Seems overly optimistic development scenario

Brian Feit, SOECA BRT rep. -

Design inherently flawed, #s off, if dedicated 2 lanes to buses during peak time it could work but that will only work if people get out of cars and take bus if they can't then this is an unwise investment,

Delhi had to pull apart their badly designed BRT - lessons we can learn?

Best BRT systems have dedicated lanes, no cross traffic interruptions and 29 doesn't meet basic 18 points to be scored on international scale.

Impact to us as community organization? If it could work, less bleeding from Colesville onto other streets; if this makes traffic worse, more traffic into neighborhoods.

A lot of traffic on 29 is not from MoCo but Howard or 495.

it's not the local community.

BRT stop at Franklin and Colesville pulled.

PL and BRT same timetable-ish – impact on turning, traveling during construction.

Impact of lawsuit on PL - Alan

Agreement vacated by judge until new Federal Environmental Impact Statement.

Judge has new info as of January and has yet to respond.

Monday Maryland Attorney General Frosh sent letter asking for decision by April 28.

Too much weighing on it.

At least one council member concerned about loss of federal funds for PL.

Benefit to community - should there be a stop so we can make use of BRT?

Doubting efficacy of bus system because no dedicated lane but too much traffic— haven't taken position, believe they haven't evaluated sufficiently.

Why reversible lanes only south of Sligo Creek Parkway? Seems like if 3 lanes can handle it in one direction, they should be able to in other.

Park Hills Summary Report - Chris Richardson

Purple Line is ramping up.

Park Hills given award for amount of trash in Adopt a Road program but cannot accept in good faith because coordinated with Friends of Sligo Creek trash sweeps.

Thanks to Mimi Brody for picking up trash on Sligo Creek Parkway between creek sweeps.

Richardson distributed new Park Hills two-page "identity flyer" to the entire PHCA serving area on both sides of Wayne Avenue..

PHCA website has history section.

Upcoming - parent effort removing leaf debris from school tennis court.

Parent is offering to teach fundamentals of tennis to Sligo Creek 5th graders and also soccer program to be started to teach 3rd graders the fundamentals.

Recent - called 311 for gas leak from vehicle on Wayne place and Fire and Rescue towed it, hazardous.

WordPress – intuitive software used for PHCA website - can join and post to website.

Elementary school hate message in November, 2016 – not sure who did it but organized a very successful Grades 3-5 Social to counter negativity, embraced Geo Bowl focus on Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & Canada.

Sandy Kemper spotted mistake in PHCA map and it was fixed.

Spring Creek cleanup will be Sunday, April 23.

Chris will ask PTA leadership to support cleaning up back of school; coincides with Salamander Stride, annual elementary school fundraiser.

SOECA -

Announcements -

May 23 - next meeting and election.
President and treasurer remaining, other offices open.

Looking for volunteer on parks, rec and open space planning.

Reached fundraising goal for memorial bench for late Bill Kaupert / tentative location in Sligo Creek Park.

Rachel Bowers was driving force behind that.

Committee chair reports -

Lynn – Safety: no report.

President – Safety Committee met and talk about projects that could be done to increase safety
explore new neighborhood watch signs.

Chris - Traffic Committee

Email add info on SOECA website including changes on parking program which is going digital as of May 1st.

Liaison to Safe Routes to School.

Enforcement project - identified streets with bad problems including Worth Ave.

Getting some signs replaced.

Working with police to get better understanding of traffic mitigation options

Staying on top of BRT - Jean Cavanaugh.

Beth Jewel is doing PL.

Walking tour of neighborhood - new group of signs installed and among them at Dartmouth and Wayne referred to **Sligo Creek** Elementary!

Section 5 of Friends of Sligo Creek trash sweep on 22nd at 9 am cleanup.

New business -

Jeff - asking for SOECA support on one block of QA between Dale and Bonifant no sidewalk, Cut-through traffic, school walking route.

Add a sidewalk to this block.

Trade-off because of space - trees important, mature trees, so put sidewalk in existing roadway and turn street one-way.

Would increase traffic on Bonifant.

Talked with county engineer to see what could be done.

One way from Dale toward DTSS but could go other way.

Reactions are either indifferent or highly supportive.

In past, it was talked about making part of Bonifant one-way.

A lot of cut through traffic

20-25 years ago Dartmouth and Cedar went one-way and that put traffic on Queen Anne's.

Would have to eliminate parking on one side of street if QA went one-way

Houses on north side of QA has alley/some parking

Motion to adjourn, seconded.

Meeting adjourned.