



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association

SEPTEMBER 2021

Please join us for the next East Silver Spring Citizens' Association (ESSCA) meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM.

The meeting will be held online. Please register in advance - details provided below.

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <https://groups.io/g/eastsilverspringcivic>

JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: [East Silver Spring Citizens' Association](#)

VISIT ESSCA'S WEBSITE: www.eastsilverspring.org • EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

QUICK LINKS

[ESSCA Constitution/By-Laws online voting procedure and ballot](#)

ESSCA SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA

Schools are open, the nights are getting cooler, and pumpkin spice is back, which means it's time for our September meeting. Here's what you can look forward to:

We'll learn about a **proposed apartment building at 713-719 Sligo Avenue** that could have 98 new homes set aside for lower-income households, and an upcoming County Council decision that will determine whether it can be built.

Next: for the first time in years, ESSCA has three standing committees. **Dan Reed** will return as Planning Committee chair, **Lima Abdullah** is the new Welcoming Committee chair, and **Luke Jones** is the new Environment Committee chair. All three chairs will talk about their goals for the coming year. For more info, see page 2!

Finally, we'll get voting results on two amendments to the ESSCA constitution that could make our association more inclusive.

To participate in the meeting, [Registration for the Zoom meeting is required in advance.](#)

TWO CONSTITUTION/BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS UP FOR VOTE

The ESSCA Constitution/By-Laws is a living document and needs periodic updates to stay in step with the community. At our May 2021 meeting, two motions were passed to amend the document to 1) remove the one year membership length requirement for holding office, and 2) make membership in ESSCA free.

Amendments can be passed with a two-thirds majority of member votes cast. Please see the next section of the newsletter for our voting procedure and make sure your membership is up-to-date by visiting our membership page.

QUESTION 1: Should any current member be allowed to hold an ESSCA Board position, regardless of length of membership?

The ESSCA Executive Committee recommends that the membership length

requirement for holding office be removed. This requirement is an unnecessary barrier to participation in ESSCA leadership. In this digital era where residents have numerous opportunities to instantly join and lead organizations, we need to be able to seize on leadership interest immediately to welcome the energy and talents of our neighbors, especially to those who are new to our community and who may not be well-represented by ESSCA.

Amendment for Question 1:

Article VI.C

To be eligible to hold office, a person shall ~~have been a member for at least one year prior to election~~ [be a member in good standing].

QUESTION 2: Should membership in ESSCA be free?

The ESSCA Executive Committee recommends making membership free because dues, even a small annual amount, can be a barrier to participation in ESSCA, especially for those on limited incomes. ESSCA can easily meet its budgetary

requirements through voluntary member donations.

Amendment for Question 2:

Constitution

Article III, Section A:

Any resident or property owner of the area, having reached the age of eighteen years, may become a member and retain membership by ~~paying annual dues, as specified in Article IV~~ [registering annually with the ESSCA Corresponding Secretary]. Anyone not satisfying the above requirements may join the Association as an Associate Member ~~upon payment of annual dues~~. Associate Members shall have all rights of full membership except that of voting, holding office, or becoming Standing Committee Chairperson.

Article IV: Dues

Section A:

~~There shall be annual dues in this Association as provided in the By-Laws. The dues of the Association shall be determined by the membership upon recommendation of the Executive Committee at the regular May meeting of each year. Dues shall be due on October 1 of each year and a grace period of two months shall be allowed before a delinquent member is removed from the rolls. The Treasurer and Hospitality and Membership Chairperson, after consulting with the President, shall notify those members who have not renewed by November 1. If said dues are not received by the December meeting date, then the delinquent member will be removed from the rolls. As a condition of eligibility to vote in the election of officers, all members' dues and dues of new members must be paid up before the election.~~

~~Section B. Members who are still delinquent by the March meeting shall be notified by the Treasurer that they are in arrears.~~

[Membership in ESSCA is free, but members may make contributions to support the Association's activities and events.]

By-Laws

Article 1: Dues

~~Individual members' dues shall be \$10.00 per year and dues for family membership (including all family members 18 years and older) shall be \$10 per year.~~

(This Article will be removed from the By-Laws, as the Constitution states that the membership in ESSCA is free.)

ESSCA BALLOT VOTING OPEN THROUGH SEPT 20

Between Sept. 13 and Sept. 20 we will be voting on two additional Constitution/By-Laws amendments. Please see the official ballot for the amendment text and the ESSCA Board's reasoning for the change.

Eligibility to vote: All ESSCA members in good standing are eligible to vote. To be a member in good standing, you have to be 18 years or older, be a resident living within the ESSCA neighborhood boundary, and have paid your dues for the 2021-2022 year (currently \$10 per household). *Note: because ESSCA membership renewals are not due until October 1, anyone who was a member in good standing last year can participate in this vote.* All eligible household members may submit a vote. Please visit our [Join Us](#) page for dues payment methods (paypal, check). If you're not sure about your membership status, please contact our Treasurer, Steve Knight, at silverspring.steve@yahoo.com.

Means of voting:

Physical contactless voting: You may pick up a paper copy of the ballot at our welcoming contactless voting location at 743 Silver Spring Ave. Each voter should fill out the ballot, provide their name, address, and email or phone number, and

deposit the completed ballot in a drop-off box at 743 Silver Spring Ave.

Electronic voting: Please vote using [our online form](#), and provide your name, email and/or phone number you have on file with your membership.

Voting tabulator: Hannah McCann has been appointed by the ESSCA Board to be the voting tabulator. Hannah will be the owner of the election email address, and will tabulate both electronic and paper ballots.

Timeline:

By Sept. 19: [Neighbors become members or renew their membership](#) to be eligible to vote. Note that voters must be members one day prior to the election so we can prepare the voter roll. *Note: because ESSCA membership renewals are not due until October 1, anyone who was a member in good standing last year can participate in this vote.*

Sept 13-Sept 20: Voting will be open during this time. Ballots must be received by 7pm EDT on Sept. 20 (our regular meeting date/time).

Sept 20, 7pm: ballots received by 7pm will be counted by the voting tabulator and the results announced at our regular Sept Zoom meeting.

If you have any questions about the election process, please contact the voting tabulator at esscavoting@gmail.com.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS!

Lima Abdullah, Welcoming Committee:

Greetings! My name is Lima Abdullah and my husband, John Irons, and I live on Piney Branch Road. I am president this year of the East Silver Spring Elementary School PTA and we are the proud parents of two ESS "Pandas." My life's work has revolved around ensuring people understand and feel empowered to help shape policies and politics that impact their lives. My particular

focus, both as a community leader and as a journalist has included a focus on inclusivity in highlighting the lives and experiences of the BIPOC community (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), women and girls (I am a troop leader and long-time Girl Scout), and those whose narratives have not always been at the fore. I enjoy hiking and biking trails in East Silver Spring and attending and helping organize events that help bring our community together.

As the ESSCA Welcome Committee Chairwoman, my goal is to help bring our full community into the conversation through events that are inclusive and speak to the beautiful diversity of our neighborhood. I look forward to hearing from, sharing with, and collaborating with you.

Dan Reed, Planning Committee:

Hi! I'm Dan and I have lived in Silver Spring nearly all of my life. My partner and William and I live on Hartford Avenue, and we both work for small businesses in downtown Silver Spring. I'm proud to say I've walked every block within the ESSCA boundaries with our 3 year old pitbull mix Drizzy. If you see us, please say hi!

This year I have two goals. The first is to let people know what's going on with local development and planning efforts, as there are a lot of exciting changes happening in our community right now, and to show people how they can get involved. The other is to bring neighbors together to work on traffic safety, primarily on Sligo Avenue, which is one of the most significant streets in our neighborhood, and one a number of neighbors have reached out to me about. This is a great neighborhood, and as committee chair I'm excited to make it even better.

Luke Jones, Environment Committee:

I live on Thayer Ave. at Grove St. with my wife Kelly Doordan. We are proud parents of two East Silver Spring Elementary School students - go Pandas! I have worked on environmental policy and program administration for more than thirty years

with a particular focus on federal Indian policy and environmental protection program development with tribes. I enjoy exploring East Silver Spring by walking, biking, and organizing community cleanup events – I also enjoy creating new things from salvaged materials, like “little free libraries” made from discarded scrap wood!

As the ESSCA Environment Chair, I plan to provide our community with many opportunities to engage, including: cleanup events, greening our local businesses, helping maintain public green spaces and waterways, greening our infrastructure, increasing awareness of local environmental issues, helping achieve legal and policy change at the County and State level, and more! My goal is to encourage individual and collective action that makes our community a more resilient, beautiful, healthy, enriching, and civically active place to live now and in the future. PS: Our next East Silver Spring Elementary School forest cleanup is from 10AM-12N on Sun. 9/19/2021. [contact the committee at: essca.environment@gmail.com]

REPORT FROM OUR MAY 2021 MEETING

Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws Passed:

In addition to hearing the results of May's election for ESSCA officers, election facilitators Hannah McCann and Kathlin Smith shared the results of voting on two proposed amendments to the ESSCA Constitution and By-Laws. A total of 86 ballots were turned in. The first proposed amendment to the Constitution included a handful of language changes to address gender inclusivity. This amendment passed with 80 voting in favor and 4 opposed. Second, a proposed amendment to the By-Laws reworked the list of committees as follows:

- Eliminating those that had been inactive for some time (Program and Publicity, Beautification, Hospitality and Membership and Historic Research)

- New descriptions and names for 2: the Environment Committee (formerly Environmental Improvement) and Planning (formerly Planning, Zoning and Public Works)
- Formation of a new Welcoming Committee.

This amendment passed with 53 voting in favor and 33 opposing. Descriptions of ESSCA's revised Committees can be [found here](#). We want to share a special thank you to Hannah and Kathlin for their hard work in managing ESSCA's first-ever contactless vote due to the pandemic.

Two More Constitution Amendments Proposed:

During the meeting we also discussed a proposal to remove the 1 year membership requirement to be eligible to hold office. After some discussion for and against this change a motion was made to draft the amendment removing this requirement and to put it up for a vote by membership in September. The motion passed with 17 in favor and 16 opposed.

We also discussed a proposal to make payment of annual dues voluntary for membership in ESSCA. Background: dues have been a requirement for membership since ESSCA's founding and have been set at \$10 per household per year for some time. Membership entitles adults 18 years of age and older to vote in officer elections and on other matters as they may arise from time to time, including changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Payment of dues has never been a requirement to attend meetings or participate in the ESSCA list-serve. After some discussion for and against the proposal a motion was made to draft an amendment making payment of dues optional and to put it to a vote by membership in September. The motion passed with 25 in favor and 3 opposed.

Finally, we discussed a proposal for a partial change to the name of ESSCA, which currently stands for East Silver Spring Citizens' Association. The primary concern is the word Citizen, which some have described as outdated and not particularly

welcoming. After some discussion a suggestion was made to change Citizens' to Community. A motion was made for the Board to explore any legal and regulatory issues associated with making this change and to report its findings in September. This motion passed with 23 in favor and 1 opposed. Update: we are still working on this item and intend to follow through later this year.

Banner contest winners announced:

In May we held a banner contest for our newsletter. We had three excellent entries and three winners who each got Plaza Art gift cards. We'll rotate their banners throughout the year. The winners were:

- Isaac McCoy (Issac's entry is featured this month)
- Sienna Long
- Haley Spencer

KOINER FARM THIRD THURSDAY DRAWS A CROWD ALL SUMMER

With COVID vaccinations providing some security and the weather getting better, we had a great turnout for the Farm Tunes and Food Trucks event in May. [CKC Farming](#), the nonprofit that runs our local Koiner Farm, was so pleased with the event that they extended it throughout the summer as "Third Thursday." Kate Medina, CKC Farming Executive Director, said "Huge thanks to ... all the ESSCA members who have helped make the Summer Concert Series at Koiner Farm a huge success - not only for the community, but for the farm as well. You have helped us reach new customers, highlighted the importance of our work and given people a lot of fun summer memories.

The next Third Thursday event is Sept. 16 from 5-7 featuring Swedish fiddle music by Catherine Chapman and friends and guitar by Adam Richardson.

How much is community worth to you?

Your community can be improved with just \$10 per household per year. Seriously, that's it! Your \$10 enables ESSCA to maintain a website, and host 5 public meetings a year. And don't forget ESSCA Fest and other events.

If everyone chips in, we can do even more together! We have an amazing community and if you invest in it; together we can become even more effective!!!

Give to ESSCA in any of these 3 ways:

1. Give at the ESSCA Meeting
2. Go to the website at <https://eastsilverspring.org> and pay via PayPal
3. Send a check payable to ESSCA to Steve Knight at 808 Violet Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please note that ESSCA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation and that member dues are not tax-deductible. Thank you!

ESSCA Officers:

President: Tim Haverland

Vice President: Dan Reed

Treasurer: Steve Knight

Recording Secretary: May Piekarski

Corresponding Secretary:
Gray Kimbrough

Welcoming Chair: Lima Abdullah

Planning Chair: Dan Reed

Environment Chair: Luke Jones

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Food Assistance - Seniors, call the County's Aging and Disability Services at 240-777-3000 or call 311.

Adventist Community Services - Located at 501 Sligo Ave, our local food pantry is available to provide food assistance to all. They also welcome donations at all times of shelf-stable foods (no glass) with their outside collection bin near the entrance. Ken Flemmer, Director of the food bank, is grateful to the community for cash donations as well. They can be reached at 301-585-6556.

Grocery Shopping, Delivery - Seniors, call Senior Connections MC at 301-962-0820. Non-seniors please call the Silver Spring Rotary at 240-781-6586.

Check-ins - Seniors, call Senior Connections MC at 301-962-0820

Mental Health Services - Need someone to talk to? Call 240-777-4000

Rental Assistance - Call 311 or visit the [County Dept. of Health and Human Services COVID-19 Rent Relief Program Phase 2](#)

Still need help? Call 311 to talk with the Montgomery County Service Center, or call ESSCA President Tim Haverland at 240-429-2506.