



East Silver Spring Citizens' Association, Inc.

March 2019

EAST SILVER SPRING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (ESSCA) MEETING

MEETING DATE: MONDAY, March 18, 2018

MEETING LOCATION IS THE HISTORIC B&O TRAIN STATION

8100 Georgia Avenue, just south of the Fire Station

JOIN ESSCA'S LIST-SERVE: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/eastsilverspringcivic>

(Include your name and street name when you send your "join request")

JOIN ESSCA'S Facebook Group: East Silver Spring Citizens' Association

VISIT ESSCA'S NEW WEBSITE: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> EMAIL CONTACT: esscaprez@gmail.com

HEAR FROM THE DEVELOPER AND OPERATOR OF A PROPOSED CHILD DAYCARE FACILITY AT OUR MARCH MEETING

Plans have been proposed to repurpose the former veterinary clinic at 911 Sligo Avenue to a child daycare facility. One of the primary issues at this time is resolving traffic impacts from child drop off and pick up by car. The developer of the proposed project, Grant M. Gary with The Woodmont Company, has been working with County Planning Staff, their land use attorney and a traffic consultant to address these matters. This meeting will serve as their public meeting before they submit plans to the Planning Dept. This is your opportunity to give input to the developer and to learn about the process and brainstorm with neighbors on impacts of concern.

DOG PARKS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The County is looking for comments regarding potential dog parks as part of a Site Suitability Study. From a recent County Parks announcement:

Montgomery Parks recognizes the desire for dog park facilities in the County, particularly in higher-density areas of the County, where residents are less likely to have a yard. Resident input, staff research, park and recreation industry trends, and the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan has strongly indicated a growing desire for dog facilities in the park system. The Dog Parks Site Suitability (DPSS) Study will be used as a reference tool for future park design and development projects. For now, people can visit our project page and Open

Town Hall page, both listed below: Information about this project can be found here:

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/dog-parks-site-suitability-study/>

The community is encouraged to submit comment through the Parks Department innovative Open Town Hall process. See <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/public-input/> to comment on this and various other issues.

REPORT FROM OUR JANUARY MEETING

The primary topic at our January meeting was discussion of options to replace the activity building at Nolte Park. The following is a statement prepared by the ESSCA board that captures the discussion from the meeting as well as further discussion, outreach and developments since then:

Dear Neighbors,

As you may know, the Nolte Park Activity Building is slated for demolition in the near future due to disuse and lack of a viable tenant. In early December, 2018, Montgomery County Parks held a community meeting where they introduced a proposal for an accessible community garden at the site. The meeting was well-attended, and support for the garden idea was good, but some in attendance asked whether other ideas could be considered.

To this end, the East Silver Spring and Park Hills Civic Associations held a joint meeting on January 28, 2019, where attendees, along with representatives of Montgomery County Parks, had a lively and full discussion of the future use of the building site.

Three leading options emerged from that discussion:

- 1) An ADA-compliant community garden space;
- 2) a "Pump Track" (a circular track for bikes, trikes, scooters, etc); and
- 3) a sheltered picnic area.

We thank everyone who presented a proposal in the meeting, including Michelle Nelson of the County Community Garden Program, and Kate Schrock and Jen Trujilo who introduced the pump track idea. While all three options had proponents and good points, and there was even some discussion on whether the options could be combined (a pump track somehow integrated with gardening plots), there was no clear consensus on preferred use for the site.

Since this meeting, ESSCA has received feedback from some residents and had conversations with County Parks staff that inform some of the options.

The ESSCA President has heard positive feedback from several residents on the community garden, including homeowners, the President of the Board of Directors for Thayer Towers Condominium, and a resident of Silver Spring House Apartments. The comments on the community garden at the County's Open Town Hall site have been almost all positive.

Through conversations with the County, ESSCA has learned that a pump track is a leading option for the redesign of Carroll Knolls Park, on Georgia Ave. just outside the Beltway. If the plan for Carroll Knolls Park is approved, it's not likely that a pump track would be built in Nolte Park. However, the County is reaching out to our local pump track enthusiasts to get their design input,

with the goal of meeting the needs of a wider area.

A picnic shelter, if desired by the community, would need to go through the County's Capital Improvement Program, which is on a timeline on the order of years. ESSCA can lead this process if there is interest from the community. Due to its longer timeline, this proposal should be de-coupled from the community garden proposal.

Finally, the County has the funds to implement the community garden proposal immediately and this option has the best chance of going forward on the Nolte building site, since there was no significant objection.

We thank the residents of East Silver Spring and Park Hills, and the County, for their patience while we discussed the use of the activity building site. We believe that the extra time and discussion were valuable in meeting the broader recreational needs of area residents.

Sincerely,
The East Silver Spring Citizens' Association
(ESSCA) Board

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ESSCA BOARD POSITIONS

We are now taking nominations for board positions. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

If you are interested please contact Mark Paster who has agreed to serve as Nomination Coordinator. Mark can be reached by phone at 202-489-7529 or by email at mark@sunnydoor.net. Per the ESSCA Constitution we will be open for nominations from now through April 15th and all candidates must be included in our next newsletter to be printed prior to our final meeting of the season on May 20th, at which time we will have elections for officers. The outreach and advocacy efforts of your civic association will only be as effective as those who serve in these leadership positions.

ESSCAFEST RETURNS!

The seventh installment of our annual community block party featuring local musicians will be back on Saturday, May 4th. The location will be 716 Easley Street, across

from Bullis Park. Stay tuned to the list serve for further details. As we have done in the past we will close the street for the afternoon for festivities, including music, dancing and refreshments. Our appreciation again goes to Tim Haverland for spearheading and organizing this fun event. We hope you can come by, sample some of our local talent and get to meet your neighbors!

East Silver Spring Citizens' Association Proudly Presents the Seventh Annual



ESSCA FEST

716 Easley Street
Across from Bullis Park

FREE!

Saturday, May 4

Rain or Shine!

Live Bands 1-6 PM
"Open Mic" between sets
Family Activities!
Bring your lawn chair & relax!
Snacks and soft beverages provided! BYOB!
Open to all neighbors in the ESSCA community

TASTE THE WORLD OF FENTON VILLAGE

The successful neighborhood restaurant crawl celebrating the many independent restaurants of Fenton Village will be back for the ninth year on Sunday May 19th from 1 to 5 PM. Plans are still in the works and the event will again feature live music, a raffle and other entertainment. More information will follow soon on the ESSCA Listserve and in the next edition of The Advocate.



FROM REEMBERTO RODRIGUEZ, SILVER SPRING REGIONAL AREA DIRECTOR FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

If you are interested in what is going on in our broader Silver Spring Regional Area (including Takoma Park) you are invited to subscribe to the Regional Area's eNewsletter from the link at www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/SilverSpring

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PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH ESSCA!

How much is community worth to you?

ESSCA has calculated community can be improved with just \$10 per household per year. Seriously that's it! Your \$10 enables ESSCA to print and distribute The Advocate newsletter, maintain a website, and host 5 public meetings a year. And don't forget ESSCA Fest, our annual block party with free music and refreshments! 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!!!

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Give to ESSCA in any of these three ways:

1. Give at the ESSCA Meeting
2. Go to the website at: <https://eastsilverspring.org/> and pay via PayPal
3. Write a check payable to ESSCA and send it to:
Steve Knight
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-deductable. Thank you!