**Nighttime Economy Task Force**

The Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force met in regular session on Monday, August 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in Rockville at the Rockville Library with the following present:

**Board** **Staff**

Heather Dlhopolsky, Chair Ana Lopez van Balen, Lead

Henriot St. Gerard, Vice Chair Dan Hoffman

Kristina Bigby, Transportation Kathie Durbin

Andy Chod, Public Space and Amenities Gabe Albornoz

Mike Diegel, Arts and Entertainment

Miti Figueredo, Transportation
Evan Glass, Quality of Life
Will Jawando, Quality of Life
Erica Leatham, Public Space and Amenities

Alice Nappy, Venue Operations and Safety
Megan Pagado, Arts and Entertainment

Alan Pohoryles, Venue Operations and Safety
Dan Reed, Transportation
Vanessa Rodriguez, Business Engagement
Jonathan Sachs, Business Engagement

Holly Sears, Business Engagement

Will Smith, Public Safety

Doug Wrenn, Quality of Life

**Absent**

Gam Wijetunge, Public Safety

**Proceedings:**

**5:05 pm:**

Chair Heather Dlhopolsky called meeting to order, introduced members of the Board and staff, approved July meeting minutes, and presented and read the agenda for today’s meeting.

**5:10 pm:**

Presentation - Urban Parks and Nighttime Economy (Rachel Newhouse and Susanne Paul- M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks)

* Examined positive correlation between public spaces and increased urbanization- “vibrant place creation” -> anchors for retail
* Planned/Safe urban design (lighting) versus challenges (limited night hours, policing, space for urban expansion)
* Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS) 2012- New Urban Parks Classification

- Special event permits for 3rd party groups to use public park spaces

**5:40 pm:**

Presentation - Councilmember Hans Riemer - MoCo Nightlife Survey

* Poll results similar to goal of Task Force: residents want nightlife options!
* Places in MoCo aren’t 1st choice for those under 40
* Significantly different opinions between under 30 and over 50 groups
* Proximity to transit and walkability are important factors for millenials

**5:57 pm:**

Discussion - City of Rockville - Jennifer Kimball, Asst. City Manager

* Successes of Rockville Town Center - Public land, privately managed
* Financial - increased tax revenues from developments, parking garages
* Noise Ordinance in MoCo is an issue (for both residents and enforcement)

**6:12 pm:**

Presentation of Committee Reports on July Meetings, Draft Recommendations

Business Engagement Committee July Report:

 - Field trip to business owners: what doing business in MoCo entails

 - Bethesda traffic is down: concerns about transportation issues

 - What do next gen employees want in terms of amenities?

 - Need to *market* MoCo’s preexisting assets to attract business

 - Ease the ability to open and start up a business in the County

Arts and Entertainment Committee July Report:

 - Change hours of sale of alcoholic beverages to match adjacent jurisdictions

 - Simplify the process (e.g. discontinue 50/50 ratio, noise ordinance area)

 - Inform property owners, artists to take advantages of tax incentives

 - Create stronger incentives for developers to incorporate venue space

 - Better management for marketing/coordination of arts opportunities

Public Use/Amenities Committee July Report:

 - Programming: Multiple uses of same spaces (different times = varying uses)

 - Management: Government steps back/some private control suggested?

 - Need for free speech and open unplanned spaces as well (Dan Reed)

Public Safety Committee July Report:

* Consider lighting, access, pedestrian safety, environmental design, etc.
* Requirements for extending hours- additional licenses for businesses

Quality of Life Committee July Report:

 - Increase funding for business districts in downtown areas (patrol, cleanup)

 - Increase affordable and diverse housing options (talk with developers)

Transportation Committee July Report:

 - Improve awareness of parking

 - Increase number of taxi stands

 - Expand safe ride program (to weekends- not just holidays)

 - Improve/expand circulator service in focus areas

 - Increase late-night transportation options

Venue Operations and Safety Committee July Report:

 - County resources are shrinking (e.g. no Fire Marshal)

 - Focus on liquor licensing and alcohol laws

**7:05 pm:**

Community Input

* September meeting recommendations to create working draft
* Compare amount of tax revenue raised in urban district to charter limit
* Entrepreneur objects to 50/50 law and parking situation

**7:12 pm:**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes submitted by Mark Federman, County Executive Office Intern