**Nighttime Economy Task Force**

The Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Silver Spring Civic Building with the following present:

**Board** **Staff**

1. Heather Dlhopolsky, Chair Ana Lopez van Balen, Lead
2. Henriot St. Gerard, Vice Chair Dan Hoffman

3. Kristina Bigby, Transportation lead Kathie Durbin

4. Andy Chod, Public Space and Amenities lead Gabe Albornoz
5. Mike Diegel, Arts & Entertainment lead

6. Miti Figueredo, Transportation lead
7. Evan Glass, Quality of Life lead
8. Will Jawando, Quality of Life lead
9. Erica Leatham, Public Space and Amenities lead

10. Alice Nappy, Arts & Entertainment lead
11. Megan Pagado, Arts & Entertainment lead

12. Dan Reed, Transportation lead
13. Vanessa Rodriguez, Business Engagement lead
14. Alan Pohoryles, Venue Safety lead
15. Jonathan Sachs, Business Engagement lead
16. Holly Sears, Business Engagement lead

17. Stephanie Steele, Venue Safety lead
18. Gam Wijetunge, Public Safety lead

**Absent**:

19. Will Smith, Public Safety lead

20. Doug Wrenn, Quality of Life lead

**Proceedings:**

**5 pm:**

**Chairwoman Dlhopolsky called the meeting to order, introduced the members of the Board and staff and presented and read the rules of procedure for today’s meeting.**

* Chairwoman delivered introductory remarks and offered her vision of what this task force hopes to accomplish.
* Remarks by County Executive Ike Leggett:

-Points out that while the public, on paper and intellectually, does support improving the nighttime economy, many people do not want to deal with the practical effects of that.

-Stresses that this is a complex problem that does not have one or two solutions. Says that there are obvious long-term issues that have to be dealt with (affordability), but believes that we can deliver tangible results in a short period of time.

* Presentation on Liquor Laws from Kathie Durbin

-Major part of discussion during the meeting. Gave overview of national, state and local regulations that have impacted the much scrutinized liquor laws in the county.

-Suggested the creation of some sort of nighttime venue license that would allow restaurants and bars more freedom to serve alcohol, though she downplayed the perceived negative effect the county’s 50-50 food-to-alcohol ratio has on its nightlife scene.

-Mentioned that enforcement of the ratio is fairly relaxed and that usually, the county won’t scrutinize a business unless a lot of negative things have been happening there.

-Extended Q&A session from task force members and public on the presentation and what can be done to bring change.

* Discussion of Task Force logistics

-Chairwoman announced task force work plan and the focuses of the various committees.

-Delivered some anecdotes of past experiences and voiced her hopes for what the task force can achieve.

* Brief Q&A and community input

Assessment of meeting:

- Dlhopolsky noticed the duration of the meeting was not in accordance with the agenda previously set. She pointed out that future meetings will likely not be ending early.

**6:43pm:**

 **Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes submitted by Kayvan Vakili, Task Force volunteer