

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Mid-County Regional Center, 2424 Reedy Drive, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 14, 2015

APPROVED

Members Present: Devala Janardan (Chair), Omar Lazo, William Moore, Leah Haygood, Mirza Donegan, Derry Goberdhansingh, Dan Thompson, Henriot St. Gerard

Staff Present: Ana Lopez van Balen, Director, Mid-County Regional Center

Guests: Mike Smith, Tami Axelrod, Marian Fryer, Suzan Jenkins, Arts & Humanities Council

Call to Order: 6:38pm by Chair Devala Janardan, followed by member and guest introductions. A motion was made and passed to approve the March meeting minutes without changes.

Community Concerns: None

Special Guest: Ana Lopez van Balen introduced Suzan Jenkins, head of the Arts & Humanities Council. She is spearheading the Arts grant. Suzan gave some background information on herself, the community and the role of citizens and the arts in enhancing the community. She noted that we are approved for grant funding for the next two years for the Wheaton Cultural grants but will need to demonstrate demand to have a prospect of future funding. She will be bringing artist Matthew Mazzotta here to Wheaton May 1-6. Matthew is renowned for his work using the Arts as a focal point in communities. He will engage interested parties while in Wheaton to ascertain our needs and then create some suggestions for the kind of creative placemaking Wheaton needs. WUDAC members then viewed a short film on one project completed by Matthew in Alabama. Plans were made to invite Matthew to meet WUDAC members while he is in town. Member discussion followed.

Directors Report: Ana Lopez van Balen announced that Tom Stanton has resigned from WUDAC. She also attended a meeting on the Library and thinks the plans look good.

Councilmember Roger Berliner has introduced bill 17-15 concerning predatory towing. She mentioned that it's been a busy month, including meetings on the public and private components of redevelopment of Wheaton as well as the Wheaton Library & Recreation Center. We are moving forward but there are still some traffic issues with both proposals that will be addressed through the process.

Other areas mentioned included the great response of applicants for the A&E Grant, her work on the shopping cart issue, and the work of MCCAB on drafting a letter on the County budget. She also noted that the BRT advisory committee met and Mirza Donegan handed out a summary of that meeting.

Old Business: Dan Thompson reported on a joint meeting of our subcommittees. Ana is trying to get a database to contact artists for our walking tour. Dan stated that a big vacuum has been created with Tom's resignation and doesn't know if we will be ready for a June tour. A motion was made and passed to take the issue back to the subcommittee.

Leah Haygood updated WUDAC on our collaboration with Green Wheaton and the work they are doing to promote greening on the Wheaton.org website.

New Business: Omar Lazo was nominated and elected to be Vice Chair, replacing Tom Stanton. There was discussion on the WUDAC subcommittee structure. There will be no changes at this time.

Adjourn: 8:00pm