

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday May 05, 2015

### **APPROVED**

**Members Present:** Devala Janardan(chair), Omar Lazo (vice-chair), Carlos Perozo, William Moore, Mirza Donegan, Leah Haygood, Dan Thompson, Henriot St. Gerard, Derry Goberdhansingh.

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

**Guests:** Ali Kruger, resident. Matthew Mazzotta, Artist. Suzan Jenkins, CEO Arts and Humanities Council. Joe Frandoni, Deputy Director, Arts and Humanities Council. Susan Lim, Asst. to Mr. Mazzotta. Tami Axelrod, resident. Jeannette Feldner, resident. Marian Fryer, Wheaton Coalition.

**Call to Order:** 6:33pm by Chair Devala Janardan, followed by member and guest introductions. A motion was made and passed to approve the April Meeting Minutes with changes.

**Community Concerns:** None

**Special Guest:** Devala gave background information on last month's presentation of artist Matthew Mazzota's work and in turn briefed Matthew on WUDAC. Devala then turned the meeting over to Matthew. Matthew explained the process of his work and asked for and received input from WUDAC members. He also presented his "Open Living Room" to be held tomorrow in Veteran's Park. A question and answer session then followed.

**Chair Report:** Devala Janardan reported on his positive experience the previous week at the Community Awards banquet hosted by the Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce.

**Directors Report:** Ana Lopez van Balen briefed WUDAC on the progress of a Parking Survey and Small Business Assessments related to the Wheaton Redevelopment project. She followed with news that Westfield has agreed to pick up shopping carts at WMATA and also in surrounding neighborhoods. Lastly, she made a mention that some in the community feel that investment in Veteran's Park should instead go towards the new Town Square. Matthew Mazzota stated that he did not see a lot of traffic passing by the Veteran's Park site.

**Chamber of Commerce Report:** William Moore noted that last week's Community Awards Banquet was very successful with approximately 150 people attending versus the 110 expected. The new Chamber website is up and running.

**MCCAB Report:** Henriot St. Gerard briefed WUDAC on a meeting about a coordinated economic initiative for the County. A main take away was that the County needed to diversify business to be less reliant on Government. He also updated WUDAC on the progress of the Library/Rec Center.

**BRT:** Mirza Donegan reported that there will be a BRT Advisory Committee meeting for the Veirs Mill Corridor on May 27.

**Old Business:** Mirza Donegan stated that her subcommittee wishes to postpone the Walking Tour, originally scheduled for June, til the Fall, when they hope to see and coordinate with plans proposed by Matthew Mazzota. A motion was made and passed to postpone the Walking Tour to a date later this Fall.

Leah Haygood updated WUDAC on the progress of her collaboration with Green Wheaton

Devala then started discussion on our subcommittee structure. Members were assigned to those subcommittees. Redevelopment discussion was sent back to subcommittee. Due to the Memorial Day Holiday, the subcommittee meetings will have to be changed. Devala will let members know the new date.

**New Business:** Devala led a discussion on a draft of a letter of support for a grant from the Maryland Bikeways/Capital Bikeshare to bring Bikeshare to Wheaton. A motion was made and passed to send the letter with changes.

**Other:** Henriot St. Gerard noted a proposed County Bill on predatory towing and asked if it should be brought to subcommittee.

**Adjourn:** 8:23pm