

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday January 12, 2016

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

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz(Director, Mid-County Regional Center)

Guests: Gary Erenrich and Anne Root(MCDOT), Andrew Rollo(Resident), Marian Fryer(Wheaton Coalition), Ali Oliver Krueger(Interact Story Theatre), Steve Silverman and Jordan Silverman(SSGovRelations, LLC)

Call to Order: 6:35pm by Chair Janardan. Motion made and passed to approve December Meeting Minutes without changes.

Community Concerns: Ali Oliver-Krueger from Interact Story Theatre requested help in researching a Wheaton Artists Network. Chair Janardan stated that WUDAC had a list that we could share with her.

Andrew Rollo, a Wheaton resident, addressed a concern to the DOT representatives about auto synching of signals with pedestrian crossing signals. Gary Erenrich replied that they operate but don't control or set protocols for signals on State roads, but can look into County roads. Derry Goberdhansingh, WUDAC member, mentioned that Rebecca Peele, aide to State Del. Al Carr, was willing to bring State Highway reps to a WUDAC meeting

Reports:

a. Wheaton Urban District:

Luisa Montero-Diaz announced the upcoming Budget Forum and said members should make plans to be there.

The Urban District has contracted with a consultant for our upcoming A&E redesignation application and can schedule for the February WUDAC meeting

Joe Callaway, Urban District Operations Manager, has been able to hire 4 employees in spite of the budget cuts. Two started this week, two next month

In Addition, Director Montero-Diaz also reported on a meeting held with DGS on relocating Regional Center tenants and Library tenants and promised to keep WUDAC posted. Wherever located, library services will be limited. Aspen Hill Library is also closing for renovations but Twinbrook and Kensington are reopening.

Chair Janardan directed a question to the Director about the status of WUDAC member nominations. They have been sent to the County Council. We should know something by the end of the month

b. Chamber of Commerce:

William Moore announced that WUDAC member Mirza Donegan has joined the Board of Directors of the Wheaton & Kensington Chamber of Commerce

c. BikeShare Program:

Gary Erenrich and Anne Root from DOT gave a powerpoint overview with handout on the BikeShare program in Wheaton. They gave an overview of the history of the program and shared proposed locations of upcoming stations. They then took questions from WUDAC members and discussion followed. Some concerns noted evolved around security, location input, and the taking away of parking spaces

d. Business Improvement District:

Steve Silverman from SSGovRelations LLC gave WUDAC members an overview of the Business Improvement District(BID) and how it differs from the current Urban District model(Handout) Steve explained how BID functions, the process in its formation and the benefits and costs to the business community. Member discussion followed.

Business and Action Item Updates:

Community Character Subcommittee: Dan Thompson distributed a handout on “Parade the Circle”, a multi-cultural celebration held in Cleveland Ohio. On the flip side was an overview of WUDAC’s goals in support of a potential A&E District

New Business: Chair Janardan announced that WUDAC subcommittees would be held on Jan. 25

Director Montero-Diaz: Taste of Wheaton is June 5th.

Adjourn: 8:10pm