

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday November 10, 2015

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

Staff Present: Jewru Bandeh(Director East Regional Center), Joe Callaway(District Operations Manager), Sidney Cooper(Marketing Manager), Luisa Montero-Diaz(Director, Mid-County Regional Center)Elise Perkins(EP Communications)

Guests: Tami Axelrod(resident), Rebecca Peele(Aide to Del. Carr), Ali Oliver-Krueger(Interact Story Theatre), Captain Lanham(4th District Police Dept)

Call to Order: 6:31pm by Chair Janardan. He introduced the new Director for the Mid-County Regional Center, Luisa Montero-Diaz. This was followed by member and guest introductions

Community Concerns: Ali Oliver-Krueger from Interact Story Theatre briefed WUDAC on attendance at their performances and asked for help in finding a new venue for future shows

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to approve the October meeting minutes with a minor spelling change.

Police Report: Captain Lanham from the 4th District station briefed members on area crime. Some highlights included sensible tips for crime prevention and an update on security coordination with Westfield.

Urban District Report: Joe Callaway gave members an overview of the upcoming budget process. The budget is tight but there will be no reduction in service levels. Discussion followed on ways to incorporate wants and needs such as pedestrian safety into the budget requests and the need to think of these things way in advance. Chair Janardan asked Derry Goberdhansingh to work with Joe to coordinate the budget process into our calendar.

Sidney Cooper, Marketing Manager, asked for WUDAC's help in promoting a BINGO promotion for Small Business Saturday.

Director's Report: Luisa Montero-Diaz briefed members on happenings at Westfield. Some developments included the opening of Vision Works and upcoming openings of a new theater and the restaurant Nando's. Construction on a new walkway near JC Penney will begin soon.

Jewru Bandeh, outgoing Acting Director, reported on arrangements for a meeting for the Business Initiative Program. He also noted that the Urban District budget requests will be submitted November 17th and a Budget Forum will be held Jan. 21 at the Mid-County rec center on Queensguard Road.

Chamber of Commerce Report: William Moore handed out a copy of a letter the Chamber sent to MCDOT requesting information on a traffic mitigation plan for the upcoming Redevelopment. He also mentioned an upcoming coat drive and mixer at Urban Thrift and that MUM will be holding their March to End Hunger on Sunday Nov.22. Also, the Chamber is seeking contributions for their annual Holiday on Duty campaign.

Subcommittee Reports:

Community Concerns: Derry Goberhansingh reported that their last meeting concentrated on walkability, bikeability and A&E as priorities. Dan Thompson spoke of the timeline to support A&E and the need to incorporate connectivity and boundary changes into the discussion. Sidney Cooper suggested inviting Elizabeth Gallaresi to their next meeting. She is the Silver Spring A&E coordinator and will be writing the application for us.

Business and Economic Development: Chair Janardan briefed members on a meeting with the Coalition for Smart Growth for a collaboration on our next Walking Tour. The tentative date is May 7th.

He also followed up with a request for member help with the Small Business Saturday promotion

BRT: Mirza Donegan noted that two speakers, Gary Erenrich and Anne Root will brief WUDAC at our January 12th meeting. A discussion on areas of concern followed amongst members.

MCCAB Report: Henriot St. Gerard noted the upcoming Annual Legislative Breakfast and he passed out a flyer.

Adjourn: 8:15pm