

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 11, 2017

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; Dan Thompson, Mirza Donegan, William Moore, Ron Franks, Derry Goberhansingh

Staff Present: None

Guests: Emily Brophy, Manager, Westfield; Marcelo Cortez, MCDOT; Michele Gordon, Andrew Rollo, Ukiah Busch, Molly Scott, residents.

Call to Order: 6:37pm by Chair Haygood, followed by guest introductions

Review March 2017 Minutes: A motion was made and passed to approve the March Meeting Minutes without changes

Community Concerns: Dan Thompson, in his role as organizer of the Wheaton Arts Parade, provided members with a copy of a letter he addressed to WUDAC Chair Leah Haygood, updating the progress of the event and outlining ways in which WUDAC could provide support

Westfield Report: Emily Brophy, Westfield Manager, updated members on a Safety Task Force in which Westfield is partnering with various community groups to review security and safety suggestions as related to the shopping mall and the surrounding area. Next meeting is tentatively set for May 22 where they hope to come up with more specific goals. Member discussion followed including input by guests. William Moore asked Emily about the status of negotiations for Community groups to use the Westfield South building during Redevelopment. It was his understanding that Westfield had backed out of a deal to provide space. Emily stated that she had not heard this and would look into it.

Wheaton Re-Development Report: Marcelo Cortez, Capital Projects Manager, MCDOT, reiterated that they are still on track for a June 5th start date for construction. Three tiebacks are still under negotiation and they hope to get agreements soon as other options will impede traffic. They also went to United Therapeutics to view their geothermal system. This is our first time doing it and we still have some questions but we feel confident about the process stated Mr. Cortez. He then took questions from members. Some concerns that were brought up included:

Cost escalation due to tieback negotiations

Signs on Construction site to direct people and contact info

Links to proposed web cams to make them more accessible

Access to updated construction schedules and plans

Mr. Cortez stated there are still plenty of things left to coordinate, including traffic mitigation, bus routing and bus shelter relocations

Reports:

A. County Council: No report

B. Chamber of Commerce: William Moore reported on an upcoming mixer with Block Advisors and Chamber planning for the upcoming Community Awards gala

C. Directors: Chair Haygood read off updates about Urban District activities provided by RSC Director Luisa Montero-Diaz.

The Veirs Mill Rd Corridor Master Plan has had two meetings and will hold another tomorrow. Leah also mentioned a timeline for developing the plan

Triangle area businesses were sent a letter about upcoming construction and parking options

Demolition of the Wheaton Library has begun

Glenmont-Wheaton Pool has been renamed for Officer Ayala and a swimming safety program put in place

WUDAC award winners to be presented at the upcoming Community Awards banquet are:

-Seoul Food-Best Improved Property

-William Moore-Business Leader of the Year

The Department of Recreation will extend their summer programs two weeks to accommodate the later school starting date

One Montgomery Green will have their gala April 21

Business & Action Item Updates:

A. FY18 Operating Budget

Chair Haygood led a discussion on a draft letter to the County Council about Urban District funding requests for FY18. After input from members, a motion was made and passed to approve sending the letter with more specifics about our requests

B. Sub-committee/team updates

-Connect to Our Communities-Update given at last meeting

-Improved Integrated Mobility-Mirza Donegan discussed a handout of committee goals. William Moore stated that as redevelopment proceeds they will address issues that arise

Member discussion followed

New Business:

A. Fall Walking Tour

Chair Haygood led a discussion on the value of having a Fall Walking Tour. William Moore stated that we should concentrate on the Arts parade. He noted that it would be dangerous to bring people to a construction site since there would be little room to stand

A motion was made and passed to not conduct a Walking Tour this year.

B. A&E Discussion-Wheaton Arts Parade

For this discussion, Dan Thompson recused himself from any decision making discussion and simply answered questions the members asked. Ali Oliver-Krueger noted the expense of police support for the parade that Dan Thompson had stated was \$5000. Ali recommended that WUDAC ask for County support. After further discussion it was agreed that the A&E Committee will draft a letter for consideration at our May meeting

Other: Mirza Donegan volunteered to join the Westfield Safety Task Force

Adjourn: 8:32pm