

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

Mid-County regional Center, 2424 Reddie drive, Wheaton MD 20902

Meeting Minutes, Monday May 08, 2017

Members Present: Leah Haygood, Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Vice Chair; Omar Lazo, William Moore, Dan Thompson, Ron Franks, Devala Janardan

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

Guests: Pete McGinnity, DGS; Chris Gillis, Aide to Councilmember Leventhal; Officer Smith, 4th District Police Dept; Richard Cisneros, Johanna Amaye, LEDC; Carmen Larsen, Carmen Rojas, Daniel Parra, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Rollo, Karen Cordry, residents; Felippo Leo, Maddalene Leo, Chris Ryan, Maria Menjivar, Shannon Rouse-Locke, Javier Solis, Maria Solis, Business owners; Jose Thommana, MCDOT

Call to Order: 6:37pm by Chair Haygood

Review April 2017 Minutes: Director Montero-Diaz asked for addition that Dan Thompson recused himself from discussion involving Wheaton Arts Parade. A motion was made and passed to approve the April minutes with that change

Community Concerns: Member Ali Oliver Krueger noted community concerns about timely notice for the date change for tonight's meeting.

Wheaton Redevelopment: Jose Thommana from MCDOT led a discussion on the timeline of the upcoming start of the Redevelopment project. The lot will close June 5th. MCDOT has started preparations starting with reducing long term parking to short term. In July they will begin geothermal drilling and other site prep with excavation beginning in August

Business owners expressed concern that part of Triangle lane will be taken to relocate Verizon poles, thus making their parking spaces unusable. Other concerns included trash pickup and deliveries due to the constricted access and lack of communication about financial assistance

Jose Thommana announced that a Project manager has been hired and would be on site to address business owners concerns.

A motion was made and passed for WUDAC to request that the County Executive meet with Trangle business owners within a week to address concerns.

Jose Thommana continued that for the first year construction will be below ground level reaching grade in August 2018. After that they will proceed at approximately one floor per month.

Buses will reroute in Jan. 2018. Member William Moore urged them to upgrade the lane signage and remove parking spaces near intersection of University and Grandview to allow two thru lanes of traffic flow to Blueridge, otherwise there may be huge backups down Grandview towards Reddie. Dan Thompson also noted improvements are needed to allow Triangle lot traffic to exit near intersection with Ennalls. Also noted by Triangle business owners was need for stronger signage prohibiting two way traffic on Triangle Lane. Officer Smith from the 4th District Police Dept stated that he would take these recommendations back to his superiors

County Council Update: Chris Gillis, Aide to Councilmember Leventhal, announced that the Council is putting the finishing touches on the FY18 budget with a vote in two weeks

The transportation committee held hearings on BRT and is leaning to Alternative 2.5.

The Council approved supplemental funding for moving expenses and WIFI for Wheaton Redevelopment.

In addition, Councilmember Leventhal requested \$25,000 for Reconciliation list for to dedicate \$5000 to each regional center for community events. Percentage of councilmembers will need to approve to get that funding.

Chris also followed up a question from an earlier WUDAC session and stated that Bozzuto has the right to develop even if they don't get tax credit for funding.

Chamber Report: William Moore updated members on the recent Community Awards Banquet and announced upcoming events

Business & Action items: Ali Oliver-Krueger led a discussion on a draft letter to Council President Berliner regarding a request for \$5000 for police support for the Weaton arts Parade. A motion was made and passed to send letter with edits

Adjourn: 8:36pm