

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday May 10, 2016

Members Present: Devala Janardan, Chair; Omar Lazo, Vice-Chair; Ali Oliver-Krueger, Derry Goberdhandsingh, Dan Thompson, Mirza Donegan, William Moore

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

Guests: Chris Gillis, Aide to Councilmember Leventhal; Mitsuko Herrera, Program Director Ultra Montgomery Dept. of Technology Services

Call to Order: 6:35pm by Chair Janardan. The Chair briefly spoke on a handout of survey samples from the Walking Tour. A motion was made and passed to approve the April Meeting Minutes without changes

Community Concerns: Chris Gillis, a Wheaton resident, shared his ideas on ways to enhance Veteran's Park. He feels that WUDAC should help in visualizing the look and uses for the space. One idea of his: no one lingers there, so tables and chairs would be useful. WUDAC can request Councilmember Leventhal's help in contacting the Parks Department

Reports:

a. Community Connectivity/WIFI: Mitsuko Herrera, Program Director for Ultra Montgomery Dept. of Technology Services briefed WUDAC on public WIFI for the Redevelopment project. She passed out a handout about the proposed system. The Council has approved \$50000 to provide WIFI to this area. A discussion followed on the uses of WIFI and how it would be a benefit to be incorporated into the Redevelopment project

b. Director: Director Luisa Montero-Diaz noted that the Wheaton Library is slated to open May 19th with limited services. More services will be added as space becomes available after the Election in November

Also on May 19th, MCCAB scheduled meeting. BRT engineers and consulting firms will be on hand to discuss project.

Wheaton Urban District FY2017 budget was approved by the County Council

PEPCO is increasing rates. We can invite them to WUDAC for Q&A

c. Chamber of Commerce: Chamber President William Moore briefed WUDAC on their successful Community Awards that were held in late April

He noted that there will be a ribbon cutting for On the Purple Couch as they move to their new location on Metropolitan Avenue on May 21

On May 25th the Chamber will hold a Breakfast Mixer with our District representatives, Madeleno, Carr, and Waldstreicher at Panera Bread at Westfield Wheaton

Subcommittee Reports

a. Community Character: No report

b. Business and Economic Development: Chair Janardan led a brief discussion of WUDAC's needs and plans for the Taste of Wheaton

He announced the next subcommittee meetings would be May 23rd

Walking Tour Debriefing: Director Montero-Diaz presented some stats gathered from participants on the Walking Tour. Over 60 people attending the event. A discussion followed on what went right and what could be improved for future Tours. The sound system was one major problem that was singled out that needed improvement. It was also noted that more outreach was needed to some Triangle businesses on the exact start of Redevelopment groundbreaking.

Adjourn: 8:03pm