

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday December 08, 2015

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

Staff Present: Luisa Montero-Diaz(Director, Mid-County Regional Center), Sidney Cooper(Urban District Marketing Manager), Elise Perkins(EP Communications), Pete McGinnity(Manager, DGS Wheaton Redevelopment)

Guests: Rebecca Peele(Aide to Del.Carr), Tami Axelrod(resident), Ali Oliver-Krueger(Interact Story Theatre)

Call To Order: 6:36pm by Chair Janardan. Motion made and passed to approve November Meeting Minutes without changes

Community Concerns: Tami Axelrod on behalf MHP invited WUDAC members to tour their properties. Chair Janardan felt this would be helpful for WUDAC to get a primer on affordable housing

Ali Oliver-Krueger from Interact Story Theatre recapped the event they had last weekend. 60 people attended. She advocated for a bigger boundary for the A&E district

Reports:

A. A&E Designation-Pete McGinnity, Manager DGS for Wheaton Redevelopment, gave a Powerpoint presentation on Wheaton's application for A&E District renewal. His overview included the history of the designation, the qualifications, its fiscal and economic impact and future steps in the process. Member discussion followed.

B. Wheaton Urban District-RSC Director Luisa Montero-Diaz started her report by asking for a review of Small Business Saturday from Sidney Cooper, Marketing Manager. Sidney thought the BINGO promotion was a good start but it required a lot of walking. We need to plan for next year. Dan Thompson asked for more collaboration on future marketing events.

Luisa continued with news that Parking Lot 13 would be closed Dec. 14-16 for geothermal testing. She handed out a notice explaining the closure.

Staff from the Latino Economic Development Corp and Montgomery County would be visiting affected businesses Dec. 14-16 about upcoming redevelopment and assistance available through Bill 16-12 that was passed today by the Montgomery County Council.

Director Montero-Diaz wrapped up her report with news that Veteran's Park has been updated with LED lighting and information on the effects of budget cuts on Urban District operations.

C. Chamber of Commerce-No December meeting

Business and Action Item Updates:

A. Community Character subcommittee-Derry Goberdhansingh reviewed their last meeting. He stated that they need a copy of the Pedestrian Safety Studies so that they can incorporate them into discussions with police and county officials.

Dan Thompson asked for a letter to the County Executive about the approaching deadline for A&E re-designation and its importance to the Wheaton community. Devala will draft letter for review at January 2016 WUDAC meeting

B. Business and Economic Development subcommittee-Chair Devala Janardan led a discussion of the upcoming Walking Tour. He stated we need to identify officials to invite. He handed out a copy of a draft letter that is to serve as that invitation. Discussion then followed and a motion was made and passed to approve sending this with changes. Devala noted that the B&E subcommittee will work on the tour route

C. Transportation update-not available

D. Review Remaining Action Items-Henriot St. Gerard reminded everyone of the Legislative Breakfast to be held next Wednesday

New Business: Devala distributed a handout of a concern of small businesses on University Blvd about the one hour parking meters and that it was not enough time to patronize their businesses. Discussion followed about increasing the time to 90 minutes or two hours. William Moore suggested that the review should include removing the spaces in front of Cricket because they are too close to the intersection at Grandview and confuse drivers who think these cars are stopped at the light, not parked, thus causing safety and congestion issues as cars try to maneuver around them.

Adjourn: 8:07pm