**Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday April 08, 2014

APPROVED

**Members Present:** Henriot St. Gerard (Chair), Devala Janardan (Vice Chair), Mirza Donegan, Rick Kessler, William Moore, Marian Fryer, Jeannette Feldner, Tom Stanton, Dan Thompson, Nadia Sesay

**Members Absent:** Luis Bonilla

**Staff Present:** Ana Lopez van Balen, Director, Mid-County Services Center

**Guests:** Jim Carlson, Planning Specialist, MCDOT office of Commuter Services. Jeff Dunkel, MCDOT Pedestrian Safety Coordinator. Adam Fogel, Staff, Councilmember Navarro

**Call to Order:** 6:07pm by Vice Chair Devala Janardan in the temporary absence of the Chair, followed by introductions. A motion was made and passed to approve the March meeting minutes without changes. Devala then turned the meeting over to Jim Carlson and Jeff Dunkel from the Dept. of Transportation for a discussion of Commuter Services and Pedestrian Safety

**Commuter Services and Pedestrian Safety Discussion:** Jim Carlson led a slide presentation, accompanied by a handout, giving background information on the history and goals of the Office of Commuter services. These services are concentrated into five areas: Silver Spring, Bethesda, Friendship Heights, Shady Grove, and North Bethesda, but are available to the whole county. He explained their use of subsidies and tax credits to accomplish their goals of managing transportation capacity, reducing congestion, reducing air/noise pollution, promoting traffic safety, and pedestrian and bicycle access.

He mentioned an online commuter survey with data collection through the end of April, and also mentioned that Earth Day is April 22 and Bike To Work Day is May 16.

Jeff Dunkel then recounted the history of the Pedestrian Safety Initiative, starting with a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by County Executive Doug Duncan in 2000 which eventually led to the Pedestrian Safety Initiative, a strategic plan announced by County Executive Ike Leggett in 2007. Jeff was hired in 2008 to implement the Initiative. He talked of their data driven approach and their Heads Up campaign. He noted the State has adopted their program which combines Engineering, Education, and Enforcement. Some of the engineering improvements he mentioned included: lighting, fencing, wider sidewalks, pedestrian signals and traffic calming measures. Ana Lopez van Balen informed WUDAC that the Pedestrian Safety Audit was spearheaded by Jeff.

**Chair Report:** Henriot St. Gerard reported on a meeting held last week on an upcoming Pedestrian safety Audit. The final report is due in the Fall. The Walking Tour will be June 14. He then went over the plans for the event and said he will send more details by email.

**Directors Report:** Ana Lopez van Balen announced that Taste of Wheaton will be Sunday June 8th. Also, the solar/recycling compactors will be bought next week and the Urban District is working with DPS on signage for our area.

**Council Staff Report:** Adam Fogel reported on public hearings slated for discussion of the Operating Budget tonight and tomorrow and the need for WUDAC to send their list of priorities for spending. He announced Councilmember Navarro’s support for $150,000 to start an advertising campaign for Wheaton and to ramp it up as Redevelopment occurs.

He reported on County Executive Leggett’s proposal for a projected $144 million for Wheaton, up from $66 million. Adam warned however that there were groups opposed to this Redevelopment Plan and their opposition could derail the project. He stated that WUDAC needs to continue to be vocal in its support.

**Other Business:** Henriot handed out a proposed draft of a letter in support of full funding for Wheaton Redevelopment. After intense discussion a motion was made and passed to send the letter to the County Council with amendments.

Ana Lopez van Balen then handed out ballots for a vote on nominees for WUDAC awards to be presented at the Chamber of Commerce gala on April 30th. After a couple of ballots the winners were declared. Listed below are the award winners and awards presented by the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce:

* Mr. Tom Stanton, Owner “Limerick Pub” awarded “Business Leader Of the Year”
* Safeway/ Exchange awarded “ Large Property Improvement of the Year”
* IHOP awarded “Small Property Improvement of the Year”

**Adjourn:** 8:10pm