

APPROVED

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday March 12th, 2013

Members Present: Henriot St. Gerard(Chair), Devala Janardan(Vice Chair), Jeannette Feldner, Marian Fryer, Dan Tompson, Tom Stanton, William Moore, Jim Onder, Nadia Sesay

Members Absent: Luis Bonilla

Staff Present: Ana Lopez van Balen, Director Mid-County Regional Center. Pete McGinnity, Wheaton Redevelopment staff.

Guests: Esther French, Wheaton Patch. Ash Kosiewicz, from the Coalition for the Fair Redevelopment of Wheaton. Rob Klein and Michael Collins from WRAC. Elizabeth Chaisson, Green Wheaton. Richard Kessler. Adam Fogel, staff to Councilmember Navarro.

Motions: After introductions, February meeting minutes were approved with minor changes

Chair Report: Henriot mentioned a February meeting with Costco that Nadia Sesay attended for WUDAC. He also attended the State of the County address. He was disappointed that Wheaton was not mentioned, but hopes that will change next year.

The letter to Holly Sears went out but WUDAC has not received a response yet. He informed the committee that he and Jeannette have been interviewing candidates for the Resident opening on WUDAC. He also remarked that he has been in contact with Kelly Blinn, from the Coalition for Smarter Growth, about a walking tour of Wheaton.

He informed WUDAC about a upcoming hearing on April 26th on the Costco gas exception and a WRAC meeting on the subject.

He touched on the FY14 county budget submission coming up on March 14th. We had requested funding for dark sky compliance, light pole banners, promo materials, Gateway signs, increase for Clean and safe team. None were included in budget.

He continued on to a brief discussion on the Glenmont Sector Plan and tax credits for a proposed Enterprise Zone. He will ask Economic subcommittee to look into how this may impact Wheaton.

Directors Report: Ana Lopez van Balen met with The Food Truck Association about a Curb Side Cookoff. She will be meeting with the appropriate county departments and area businesses to discuss issues related to the event.

She reported on the Public Safety Work Group meeting and feedback received by over 400 individuals. The 3 top concerns discussed previously remain the same. She is drafting a report.

The County Executive is putting together a Nighttime Economy Workgroup and Ana has been asked to lead the effort. She hopes to start by April.

She briefly touched on work of MCCAB, specifically a meeting with Lee Development about a property in Aspen Hill. Also on her agenda was ongoing work with the new Wheaton Library. Marian Fryer stated that WUDAC should be represented on the Library committee.

A very lively discussion on Food trucks followed. William Moore stated that Urban District funds should be used only to promote Urban District businesses and he felt it was inappropriate to use funds to bring in outside businesses with no ties to the Wheaton Urban District. The issue was assigned to the Economic Subcommittee for further review.

Subcommittee Reports:

Economic-Nadia Sesay attended the meet and greet with Costco officials. She recommended that Costco not do a presentation to WUDAC. She reported on their subcommittee work on recommendations to revive Arts and Entertainment in the Urban District and their hopes for a walking tour in April for location of a possible headquarters.

She stated that business owners attended the last subcommittee meeting and expressed frustration with funding for small business help during Redevelopment. A letter to the County Executive was drafted for WUDAC review

Design-Dan Thompson reported on the March 4th subcommittee meeting and handed out a meeting summary to WUDAC members. He will ask Green Wheaton to make a presentation to their next meeting and also would like to join in the walking tour with the Coalition for Smarter Growth when arranged. He briefly mentioned internal committee talk about the need of a traffic signal on Georgia near walkway to Triangle but subcommittee could not reach any consensus.

He circulated draft letter for "Garden of Lights". The Chair asked to put off consideration until a later date.

Council Report: Adam Fogel, representing Councilmember Navarro, reported that the Council had a closed door session on Wheaton Redevelopment earlier that day. They are looking forward to an amended Project Description Form. He mentioned work that DED is doing with regards to the Small Business Impact Fund regulations. He also updated WUDAC on an upcoming Town Hall meeting that will discuss the budget, Silver Spring transit Center and other topics. He asked all to stay informed and give them feedback on our priorities during the budget review period.

Redevelopment: Pete McGinnity updated WUDAC on the county's work on redevelopment. He responded to a question from the Chair for an update on Bill 6-12. Pete explained the process and took further questions from committee members. He explained that the County Council session on Redevelopment today was closed because it dealt with the acquisition of property. He also mentioned ongoing discussions between DGS and Park and Planning for an agreement on size and scope of P&P building before construction can begin.

Other Business: Henriot presented the draft letter from the Economic Subcommittee to the County Executive concerning support for small business impacted by redevelopment. After some discussion, the motion to send the letter of support was passed.

Ana van Balen stated that there has been ongoing dialogue about WRAC and WUDAC joining together. Michael Collins, Chair of WRAC, briefly addressed WUDAC.

Marian Fryer passed around an interesting article about early development of TV transmission occurring at a house on Windom Lane and Georgia Ave in Wheaton

Adjourn: 7:36pm