

APPROVED

Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee

December 11th, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Mid-County Regional Center 2424 Reedy Drive Wheaton MD 20902

Members Present: Henriot St. Gerard (chair), Devala Janardan (Vice Chair), Jeannette Feldner, Dan Thompson, Luis Bonilla, Nadia Sesay, William Moore, Tom Stanton

Members Absent: Jim Onder, Marian Fryer

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

Guests: Adam Fogel, assistant to Councilmember Navarro
Elizabeth Chaisson, Green Wheaton
Manuel Ochoa, WRAC
Raymond Rose, representing the Coalition for the Fair Redevelopment of Wheaton.
Danila Sheiko from the Stop Costco Gas Coalition

Coalition for Fair Redevelopment requested a letter of support. Chair responded it would be considered at future meeting. Motion to accept meeting minutes from November approved with changes.

Chair Report: Henriot reported that the new website is launched and our updated blog linked. The number of hits has increased. He also thanked the WUDAC Committee for their help with overview and comments. He touched briefly on an upcoming Green Wheaton event scheduled for Dec. 20th and suggested Design subcommittee should attend.

Director Report: Ana Lopez van Balen thanked everyone for the great feedback on website. She stated that the community newsletter was sent today and to please forward to other businesses. She also mentioned she was partnering with area developers to help tie rebranding to redevelopment. She also reminded everyone that the Public safety workgroup survey was available til Friday for those interested in participating. In addition, Ana announced that Wheaton was awarded a grant by the state for solar trash compactors and also façade improvements. She also noted that Costco has delayed their opening at Westfield until Spring 2013 and that Glenmont is moving to designate some buildings for historic preservation.

Economic sub-committee report: Devala Janardan reported that Nadia Sesay will chair committee. They have divided their responsibilities as follows: Luis Bonilla, gaining perspective from existing businesses; Tom Stanton, will focus on Arts and Entertainment; Devala Janardan, will address new business initiatives; and Nadia Sesay, will be responsible for monitoring all areas.

Design sub-committee report: Dan Thompson named the committee members and stated the committee was tasked in developing a plan with a goal of a Walkable Wheaton safe and attractive in the eyes of the public. This would encompass areas of lighting, signage that reinforces the Wheaton brand, storefront appearance, and public art. He will have more details at January meeting.

Councilmember report: Adam Fogel, staff to Councilmember Navarro, remarked that he liked the new website and Council will be happy to help promote. He touched on their work with the Public Safety

Work Group, the Glenmont Sector Plan, and the council's work to define the Eligible Enterprise Zone which will provide tax credits for Glenmont. He also noted the progress of Redevelopment with Memos of Understanding and upcoming CIP amendments.

WRAC report: Manny Ochoa updated WUDAC on the progress of the new Wheaton Library. He noted the County is not moving forward in creating a selection committee of the architect for this new facility but instead have chosen a contractor to accelerate the process.

Redevelopment report: Pete McGinnity touched on the Small Business Survey and the progress of the BBT building. He also noted that streetscape construction has begun on Reddie Drive.

Other Business: Henriot touched on survey results showing limited knowledge of programs available for small business and how WUDAC can act as a clearinghouse to get the word out. Ana noted that resources are mentioned in the newsletter. Other members commented on aspects of the survey.

Community Concerns: Elizabeth Chaisson, representing Green Wheaton, reported that participation has doubled at their recycle events. She noted the great turnout at their Green Drinks social. She hopes for "green" in arts and entertainment for redevelopment and encouraged "green" district as mentioned in previous task report. She told WUDAC that they will discuss LED lighting and the "Dark Sky" initiative at their upcoming meeting on Dec. 20th. She noted an upcoming Empowerment program to tell businesses how to improve lighting and energy efficiency. Green Wheaton is working with the Urban District on the location of the recycling bins and is talking with the Montgomery Arts Association about decorating the bins.

Other: Danila Sheiko from the Stop Costco Gas Coalition appealed to WUDAC for support.

Adjourned: 7:30pm