

## **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee**

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

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday March 08, 2016

**Members Present:** Devala Janardan(Chair), Omar Lazo(Vice Chair), Derry Goberdhansingh, Dan Thompson, William Moore, Mirza Donegan

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

**Guests:** Andrew Rollo, resident; Adam Fogel, aide to Councilmember Navarro; Al Carr, MD State delegate; Rebecca Peele, aide to Del. Carr; Lt. Michael Hartnett, MCPD District 4

**Call to Order:** 6:37pm by Chair Janardan. A motion was made and passed to approve the February Meeting Minutes without changes

**Community Concerns:** Andrew Rollo, resident, inquired about the opening of the movie theater at Westfield and cameras for WMATA and Westfield. Lt. Hartnett responded that cameras are the responsibility of the property owners. Director Montero-Diaz noted that the theater was originally scheduled to open in March with restaurants to follow in June.

**Police Report:** Lt. Hartnett updated WUDAC on area crime statistics. Some concerns raised included an increase in Robberies and the effect of the later 3am bar closing time on police staffing and response to drunk drivers.

He also mentioned that Capt. Lanham will return March 22 and a proposal to move Einstein fireworks to Wheaton Regional Park is being considered

**Special Guest:** Maryland State Delegate Al Carr led a question and answer session on areas of community concern. Some topics covered included LED lighting, retrofitting sidewalks for ADA compliance, Bicycle and Pedestrian priority areas, traffic signal and pedestrian signals, traffic patterns and enterprise zones. WUDAC members received a handout on his 2016 State Legislative Agenda. Del. Carr also touched on the reform to the Montgomery County liquor control and his efforts to grant Costco an exemption to current law to allow beer and wine sales at their Wheaton location.

**Council Report:** Adam Fogel, aide to Councilmember Navarro, reported that the Council approved the Wheaton Redevelopment Capital Budget for \$167.9 million to add two floors to the Park and Planning building and a change to Library funding to \$76.5 million. Members received two handouts pertaining to Navarro's efforts to provide for facilities for an Arts and Humanities Center in Redevelopment. Adam urged WUDAC to write the Council and County Executive to advocate for a multicultural center but noted Park and Planning has priority in the new building. Councilmember Navarro feels we need sustained investment in Wheaton. We need to identify uses and define what that center would mean to the community. He noted the Silver Spring Civic Center as a model. Lastly he mentioned a bill in committee to ask the State to allow the County to increase penalties for illegal dumping.

**Director's Report:** Director Montero-Diaz announced that the Kensington Park Library will open April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The rain garden currently located across the street from the Mid-County Regional Center will be moved to Veteran's Park due to Redevelopment. In addition, she reported that the County requests our

help to locate potholes and that the County needs more election judges, especially those who are bilingual.

Ali Oliver-Krueger is a new WUDAC member representing residents

Director Montero-Diaz then led a discussion on nominations for the WUDAC awards to be presented at the April Community Awards Banquet. A vote will be taken at our April meeting.

**Business and Action Item Updates:**

a. Community Character Subcommittee:

A&E Application: Dan Thompson led a discussion of his proposed letter to the County on aligning the A&E and Urban District boundaries. A motion was made and passed to send the letter with minor edits.

b. Business and Economic Development

Walking Tour: Chair Janardan led a discussion on the upcoming Walking Tour, including location of stops and identifying speakers. He suggested devoting the next subcommittee meeting solely to the event.

He also mentioned the need to act on some issues brought up by Del. Carr

**Other Business:** Director Montero-Diaz noted that our A&E redesignation application required a public meeting. This meeting is scheduled on March 22 at 7pm at the George Apartments.

Chair Janardan reminded members that the next subcommittee meeting is March 28.

**Adjourn:** 8:30pm