**Nighttime Economy Task Force**

The Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force met in regular session on Monday, July 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in Wheaton at the Hollywood East Cafe with the following present:

**Board** **Staff**

Henriot St. Gerard, Vice Chair Ana Lopez van Balen, Lead

Kristina Bigby, Transportation Dan Hoffman

Mike Diegel, Arts and Entertainment Kathie Durbin

Miti Figueredo, Transportation Gabe Albornoz  
Evan Glass, Quality of Life  
Will Jawando, Quality of Life  
Erica Leatham, Public Space and Amenities

Alice Nappy, Venue Operations and Safety  
Megan Pagado, Arts and Entertainment

Alan Pohoryles, Venue Operations and Safety   
Dan Reed, Transportation   
Vanessa Rodriguez, Business Engagement   
Holly Sears, Business Engagement

Gam Wijetunge, Public Safety

Doug Wrenn, Quality of Life

**Absent**

Heather Dlhopolsky, Chair

Andy Chod, Public Space and Amenities

Jonathan Sachs, Business Engagement

Will Smith, Public Safety

**Proceedings:**

**5 pm:**

Vice Chair St. Gerard called the meeting to order, introduced the members of the Board and staff and presented and read the agenda for today’s meeting.

**5:05 pm:**

Arts & Entertainment June Report:

* Stressed that business owners need a more streamlined process to procure licenses.
* The subcommittee will be recommending creating a one-stop shop for licensing needs.

Business Engagement June Report:

- Shared its discovery of businesses that say recruiting young professionals can be difficult because of the housing situation in Montgomery County.

- There aren’t enough rental options that are low cost, according to the subcommittee’s findings.

Transportation Committee June Report:

* Met with a representative from the Sober Ride program. It allows residents to call and receive a free ride home.
* For our future meetings, they plan to hear from Rick Siebert on parking and Carolyn Biggins on transit service.

Quality of Life Committee June Report:

* Focus of the meeting was how to create or incentivize affordable housing.
* Data suggests young people are willing to pay high rents to live in attractive communities with amenities.
* Baseline = housing costs increase with proximity to Metro.
* Wheaton has the highest level of affordable housing near Metro.
* One problem: developers build for the current market, not for the future.
* Big question: how to incentivize developers to build larger and more diverse units, so that individuals and families can remain in apartments.

Venue Operations and Safety June Report:

- Nationally renowned speaker talked about how to ensure safety through the theory of crime prevention through environmental design.

Public Use/Amenities Committee June Report:

* Main question was how should the design/need of public space and amenities change from district to district (e.g. Bethesda vs. Germantown)?

- Discussion on best practices from the developer’s point of view regarding public spaces.

**5:30 pm:**

Discussion of Timeline for Draft Recommendations led by Vice Chair

**5:35 pm:**

Presentation – History of Tornado Alley, and Challenges and Thoughts on Creating Arts & Entertainment Districts in Communities (Tom Stanton, Owner Limerick Pub in Wheaton, MD):

* Wheaton needs smaller/medium-sized performing arts center and has the ability to support one.
* Wheaton already has a diverse range of offerings and this needs to be continued.

**6:15 pm:**

Presentation of Case Study – Veterans Plaza in Silver Spring, followed by Q&A (Reemberto Rodriguez, Jewru Bandeh, Evan Glass, Mike Diegel):

* Rodriguez mentioned that Project for Public Spaces promoted their recent national conference by stating: “In a compelling entry into the public dialog around place making, Project for Public Spaces argues that people, rather than merely places, create vibrancy in a community.”

- Diegel noted that there have been four attempts for revitalization in the Wheaton district and we need to focus on how to make this recent initiative work.

**6:50 pm:**

Community Input:

* Entrepreneur discussed perception of Montgomery County in DC.
* Consensus among business owners in DC is not to do business in Montgomery County.
* Entrepreneur was keen on opening a wine bar in the County and struggles to do so due to various obstacles.

**7:00 pm:**

**Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes submitted by Kayvan Vakili, Task Force volunteer