**Nighttime Economy Task Force**

The Montgomery County Nighttime Economy Task Force met in regular session on Monday, June 17, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the Bethesda Library with the following present:

**Board** **Staff**

1. Heather Dlhopolsky, Chair Ana Lopez van Balen, Lead
2. Henriot St. Gerard, Vice Chair Dan Hoffman

3. Kristina Bigby, Transportation lead Kathie Durbin

4. Andy Chod, Public Space and Amenities lead Gabe Albornoz
5. Mike Diegel, Arts & Entertainment lead

6. Miti Figueredo, Transportation lead
7. Evan Glass, Quality of Life
8. Will Jawando, Quality of Life lead
9. Erica Leatham, Public Space and Amenities lead

10. Alice Nappy, Arts & Entertainment lead
11. Megan Pagado, Arts & Entertainment lead

12. Dan Reed, Transportation lead
13. Vanessa Rodriguez, Business Engagement lead
14. Alan Pohoryles, Venue Safety lead
15. Jonathan Sachs, Business Engagement lead
16. Holly Sears, Business Engagement lead

17. Stephanie Steele, Venue Safety lead
18. Gam Wijetunge, Public Safety lead

19. Doug Wrenn, Quality of Life lead

20. Will Smith, Public Safety lead

**Proceedings:**

**5 pm:**

**Chairwoman Dlhopolsky called the meeting to order, introduced the members of the Board and staff and presented and read the agenda for today’s meeting.**

* Chairwoman delivered introductory remarks and jumped into committee reports and workplans.

**5:05 pm:**

* Arts & Entertainment Committee Work Plan

-What type of arts and entertainment venues and activities will attract a variety of audiences to build and sustain a vibrant nightlife in our urban areas?

-What factors impede local establishments from procuring the Enterprise License necessary to provide live entertainment?

-The Arts & Entertainment Committee will use a combination of research into best practices, input from experts and community participation to address these questions and then formulate a series of recommendations to address the needs identified in the course of meetings devoted to the key topics.

* Business Engagement Committee Work Plan

- What steps can Montgomery County take to recruit employees for the jobs of today and the future? What nighttime and other amenities will attract those workers and how do we bring them here?

- Who are the employees the County wants to attract and retain and what companies will they work for?

- The Business Engagement Committee will devote one meeting to each of the Key Topics in an effort to address the Main Question. The meetings will be structured to include time to hear from an expert, a question & answer period, general discussion, and time for community input.

* Transportation Committee Work Plan

- What are the appropriate transportation options to meet nighttime demands? Given the current status of key transportation areas, (bus, metro, taxi etc), what challenges do we face in providing safe rides to and from these hospitality zones?

- The Transportation committee will determine the current status of key transportation areas and identify needs in these areas. The meetings will include research from committee members, a 10 – 15 minute presentation from a subject matter expert, general discussion and community input. After each meeting the committee will update the work plan with answers to key questions, define future action items and set a specific timeline for recommendations.

* Quality of Life Committee Work Plan

- What steps can Montgomery County take to provide affordable housing in urban centers for residents who want to live near nighttime activities; what should be done to mitigate noise, trash, and other impacts associated with the nighttime economy; and how can communication with the broader community be enhanced?

- What housing options currently exist or are planned to be developed in the urban centers of the County?

- The Quality of Life Committee will devote one meeting to each of the Key Topics in an effort to address the Main Issues. The meetings will be structured to include time to hear from experts, engage in discussion and allow for community input.

* Venue Operations and Safety Work Plan

- How can we meet the demand for increased nightlife activities that includes the service of alcohol while ensuring the safety of patrons and preventing the sale and service of alcohol to underage minors? What kinds of measures can be taken to encourage safe nightlife? How do we educate patrons about safety issues and regulations?

- The Venue Operations and Safety Committee will devote one meeting to each of the Key Topics (some will be combined) in an effort to address the Main Question. The meetings will be structured to include time to hear from an expert, a question & answer period, general discussion, and time for community input.

* Public Use/Amenities Committee Work Plan

- What steps can Montgomery County take to utilize existing public spaces to encourage safe and engaging nighttime activities? What steps can Montgomery County take to encourage the construction and implementation of safe and engaging nighttime activities in new development?

- The Public Use/Amenities Committee will hold meetings to hear from experts in the following issues:

1. Experienced mixed-use developer and management team (Edens on Mosaic project)
2. County representative (focus on costs and county scope of services)
3. Chamber representative(s) to discuss local business needs
4. Civic representative(s) to discuss community goals
5. College and high school students to talk about what they want to see, where they go and why.

**5:50 pm:**

* Presentation by Montgomery County Planning Department – Demographics of Montgomery County

-Employee from the department discussed the changing demographics in the county and how we are becoming more diverse more rapidly.

-Displayed an informative video filled with various statistics and regional trends regarding millenials.

**6:10 pm:**

* Presentation by George Washington University – Attracting Young Professionals to Montgomery County

-A group of George Washington University graduate students presented recommendations based on a survey from their grad school project about how to attract young professionals to Montgomery County.

-The presentation sparked a discussion around what it needed to attract these “millennials” to the county.

**7:00 pm:**

 **Meeting Adjourned**

Minutes submitted by Kayvan Vakili, Task Force volunteer